

A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of several modern skyscrapers with glass and steel facades. The buildings converge towards the top of the frame, creating a sense of height and urban density. The sky is a pale, clear blue. In the foreground, the tops of green trees are visible at the base of the buildings.

# 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

UN  HABITAT

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

# 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The landmark decisions taken at the biennial gathering of governments in the UN-HABITAT Governing Council which oversees our work and budget were of great significance because 2007 marked a key turning point in human history: It was the year in which the world became fifty-percent urban. For the first time, the majority of human beings were living in cities. And the process is accelerating. This transformation has a direct bearing on the strategies we must adopt to attain the Millennium Development Goals.

The other historic turning point was that the number of urban slum dwellers around the world topped the 1 billion mark, making it clear yet again, that the urbanisation of poverty is arguably the single biggest development challenge.

No longer can we ignore the plight of these slum dwellers who live in life-threatening conditions. Nor can we hide from the fact that this figure is projected to reach 2 billion by 2030 if current trends prevail. We are facing a serious crisis. We have both a moral and ethical responsibility to make our cities more equitable, more inclusive, and sustainable. It is an economic imperative that we fight urban poverty and squalor if we are to secure urban safety and security. For this we need sound governance.



Our experience working with governments, local authorities, communities and the private sector around the world gives us good insight even if we do not have all the answers, and it enables us to ask some of the right questions.

The fact that slums are growing around the world reflects a crisis in governance and government. We need to be able to live in cities with the democratic space that allows for the inclusion of all citizens, rich and poor, in crucial decision-making processes, promoting the rule of law, law enforcement, and the protection of human rights. These are critical to a world vision based on equity and justice. But they require long-term and protracted efforts in civic education

and changes in institutional behaviour.

"Good leadership is vital if we are to overcome the challenges that face our world," said Mr. Kofi Annan, our former Secretary-General. He was speaking at the ceremony in Alexandria, Egypt in November last year, when the former President of Mozambique, Mr. Joaquim Chissano, received the inaugural Mo Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership. The prize is aimed at promoting good governance in Africa. But the wisdom applies everywhere. "Without honest and sound leadership," Mr. Annan added, "the danger is that this potential will remain unfulfilled."

President Chissano, who serves as UN-HABITAT's Youth Ambassador, responded by saying: "I look forward to using the prize to do all I can to promote good governance in a continent that is changing rapidly for the better."

When many urban dwellers – mostly young people aged 20-40 living in poverty – feel excluded and left behind by their cities and towns, they will react.

And it was for this reason that the Governing Council gave us a new resolution to strengthen our work with youth. It was also why World Habitat Day 2007 focused on youth and the challenges of urban safety and security. The

theme, *A safe city is a just city*, was chosen because we, like President Chissano, see young people as a positive force for change. We believe they must be consulted and join us in finding solutions. Invariably, the discontent springing from inequality leads to hostility and danger. And so I thank here our World Habitat Day host Governments, the Netherlands and Mexico, for so graciously and generously helping us bring these matters to the fore.

Our biennial flagship publication, *The Global Report on Human Settlements* in 2007 also highlighted urban safety and security. It showed that apart from crime and violence, a lack of secure tenure and huge vulnerability to natural disasters affects poor people far more than the rich. Resilience is highly correlated to income both within and between nations.

And these matters also have a direct impact on that very topical subject of 2007, climate change.

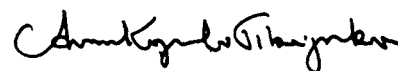
Indeed, it is no coincidence that climate change emerged at the forefront of international debate in 2007 at the same time, and virtually at the same pace, as the world becomes urbanized.

It was why I pointed out my report to the UN Economic and Social Council of 2007 that reducing the vulnerability of cities to the effects of climate change should and needs to be seized as an opportunity to improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable segments of our urban populations.

In the year 2007, we were able to engage member States, and our traditional partners including local authorities and civil society organisations, as well as our relatively new partners among utility firms and service providers, so that they can enhance their respective roles and contributions towards the attainment of the internationally agreed targets of the Millennium Development Goals on reducing the number of slum

dwellers and those without water and sanitation services.

Our Governing Council passed 10 resolutions directly aimed at giving us the muscle we need to improve global urban development. I have no doubt that two of these, the *Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan*, and one entitled, *Strengthening the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation: experimental financial mechanisms for pro-poor housing and infrastructure* will prove instrumental to the future of UN-HABITAT, and the 2007 Governing Council could well prove to be a watershed.



Executive Director, UN-HABITAT  
Under-Secretary-General,  
United Nations



## 01

BRAVELY INTO A NEW  
URBAN ERA

In the year of 2007, humankind as a whole crossed the Rubicon to become a predominantly urban species – *homo urbanus*. The majority of the human population globally is now residing in urban centres, with all the attendant effects and consequences.

It is an urban era characterised by climate change and globalisation on a scale not witnessed before.

Today, cities are increasingly assuming a leadership role amid the phenomenon of globalization. With the liberalization of the world's economy, human, technological and financial resources are concentrating in cities. Hong Kong, London, New York and Tokyo have become global centres of financial services followed closely by Frankfurt, São Paulo, Shanghai and Singapore. Cities such as Dubai have capitalized on their physical location to become global transportation hubs. Yet other cities such as Bangalore, Seattle and Silicon Valley have emerged as key players in information technology.

In terms of economic output, cities drive national economies in the industrialised countries. For example, in the United States, cities outpace states and even nations in economic output. If the five largest metropolitan areas in the United States (New York,

Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston and Philadelphia) were treated as a single country, it would rank as the fourth largest economy in the world.

In developing countries too, cities have grown in size and economic clout. For example, Mexico City, with 14% of Mexico's population, accounts for 34% of its GNP. São Paulo, with just over 10% of Brazil's population produces 40% of its GDP. Shanghai, with just 1.2% of China's population, generates over 12% of China's GNP. Bangkok has only 10% of Thailand's total population but contributes nearly 40% to its GDP. Cities in Africa contribute 60% to the continent's GDP, yet only about 34% of the continent's people live in cities. Johannesburg and Cape Town, respectively, account for 15% and 14% of South Africa's GDP.

Since ancient times, cities have set the social, political, economic, cultural, scientific and environmental trends of the world – both good and bad. With half of humanity now living in cities, and with urban poverty, pollution and crime on the rise, one of the biggest problems facing the global community is sustainable urbanisation.

No surprise therefore that the rise in global slum populations in 2007 showed that cities also

manifest excruciating poverty and deprivation, especially in developing countries. This poses huge challenges to human security, safety and health.

Research published by UN-HABITAT showed that unless immediate and effective interventions are not made today, this situation will become a major threat to social stability, and thus to global peace and security.

In a look at the magnitude of this phenomenon, our research during the year showed that about 60 per cent of urban dwellers in developing and transitional countries had been victims of crime in the last 5 years, countless thousands of them women. In Latin America, cities such as Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Mexico City and Caracas accounted for over half of the violent crime in their respective countries. Organized crime accounted for USD 1 billion in illicit capital circulated daily by criminal groups among the world's financial institutions.

Global estimates indicated during the year that there are 100 million street children. Between 133 million and 275 million children experienced violence at home annually.

Estimates showed that between 700,000 and 1 million people, mostly women and girls, are trafficked around the world each



year. Youth gang membership was also estimated to be in the millions worldwide, with institutionalised youth gangs concentrated in cities with high violence rates.

With such figures, it is tempting to conclude that cities are actually crucibles of instability and insecurity. It is even more tempting when account is taken of the increasing level of terrorist attacks on cities all over the world.

It was for these reasons that our flagship publication in 2007, the latest *Global Report on Human Settlements* carried a record of over 20 high profile terrorist incidents between 1997 and 2006 that took heavy toll in human lives, causing untold injuries and serious damage to property. They included attacks in Luxor, Egypt, to the World Trade Centre in New York, and bombings in Bali, Madrid,

London and Mumbai, to cite a few.

Although these acts of terrorism were local events, it reported that they were designed to have global impact. They therefore tended to receive greater media and international coverage than, for example, riots or disturbances in urban slums that claim many more lives, the report said.

A crisis in urban governance, manifesting itself in this manner in a remote city in the South could thus well have meaningful consequences for someone in the North, and vice versa. We are indeed in a global village.

And yet, the threat to security and stability within the urban context remained not only limited to crime and violence. Indeed, there rising incidence of natural and human-made disasters in 2007

continued to mount. Surveys have showed a three-fold increase in the number of natural disasters from 1975 to 2006, while human-made disasters multiplied ten-fold in the same period. In this connection, climate change alone has led to a 50 percent increase in extreme weather events between 1950 and 1990.

Today too, cities are increasingly assuming a leadership role in climate change. The reason is that urbanization brings about irreversible changes in our production and consumption patterns.

Our research during the year also showed that how we plan, manage and live in our growing cities will determine to a large extent, the pace of global warming. With half of the world's population living in cities, cities

## STRENGTHENING UN-HABITAT – THE 2007 GOVERNING COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

The resolution entitled **Decentralisation and strengthening of Local Authorities** was the fruit of 10 years of labour. It helps support local authorities implement the Habitat Agenda.

The resolution on **Guiding Principles for providing Basic Services** promotes more effective policies and regulatory frameworks for the reaching out to the poor.

A resolution on **Arctic Cities** came as UN-HABITAT entered a new phase of partnerships and cooperation with our sister agencies such as the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to address sustainable urban development.

The resolution on establishing the new **Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development** reflected the growing commitment to address the problems of urban youth.

The resolution entitled, **Women's land and property rights and access to finance** is designed to make a big impact on urban poverty reduction.

The resolution entitled, **Sustainable public-private**

**partnership incentives for attracting large-scale private sector investment in low-income housing** is designed to bring in new private sector partners.

The resolution approving the **Biennial work programme and budget** is a standing agenda item of the Governing Council.

The resolution on **Africa fund/financing mechanism on slum prevention and upgrading** provides a new window of opportunity for tackling the social, economic and environmental consequences of the most rapidly urbanising region in the world.

The resolutions on the **Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan** and the resolution entitled, **Strengthening the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation: experimental financial mechanisms for pro-poor housing and infrastructure** were the highlights of the year.

are already responsible for most of global energy consumption and green house gas emissions. Roughly half these emissions are caused by the burning of fossil fuels for urban transport; the other half comes from heating, cooling and running our buildings and homes.

We all agreed at several high level meetings during the year that mitigation measures are urgently required. UN-HABITAT pointed out to the UN General Assembly the irony that the people and cities most vulnerable to the impact of climate change are those who contribute least to climate change.

We also pointed out that those most affected today, and in the future, will be the world's urban poor – and chief among them, the slum dwellers, the majority of them women and the children they support. For this reason, adaptation and mitigation remained part and parcel of our core mandate – improving our housing and urban development to reduce poverty and to make our cities and settlements safer, more sustainable and more resilient.

At the two most important of those climate change meetings, towards year's end in Bali, Indonesia, and just months earlier when world leaders addressed climate change at UN headquarters in New York, we were at hand: We stressed that urbanization, urban poverty, and climate change are all linked, and that cities and towns represent the nexus of the equation.

Our work in 2007 covered every one of these aspects. The Governing Council resolution approving the *Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan*



**The skyline of Dubai, one of the fastest growing urban settlements in the world. Photo © Xing Zhang**

provided a new road-map for UN-HABITAT to better assume its role in the coordinated implementation of the *Habitat Agenda*, in a reformed UN. It gave concrete expression to our quest, since the 2001 Istanbul+5 meeting in New York, to strengthen this organisation by sharpening its focus, aligning its work, and improving its management systems.

The Governing Council also gave us the resolution entitled, *Strengthening the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation: Experimental financial mechanisms for pro-poor housing and infrastructure*. One result of misinformed or misguided public policy on urbanization is that investments in housing and urban development lag way behind demographic growth and the physical expansion of towns and cities.

A UN-HABITAT analysis last year of national development plans

and budgets among rapidly urbanising countries revealed that, with few exceptions, housing and urban development rank among the lowest in terms of national budgetary allocations and public expenditure – or political priorities.

It found that the bulk of resources devoted to housing and urban development typically comes from the private sector. But public policy and public expenditure in urban infrastructure and services are critical to leveraging private investment and to providing the necessary incentives for interventions targeting the urban poor.

For UN-HABITAT the year started intensely with a visit to the slums of the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, by the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon. It ended every bit as intensely with UN-HABITAT warnings on urban poverty at the UN Climate Change Conference in Bali.

## SPEAKING OUT ON GOVERNANCE

For human beings to live together, there must be laws enacted to ensure that harmonious existence is achieved, says **Desmond Tutu**, the long serving Archbishop of Cape Town who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for his work against apartheid rule in South Africa. This is an excerpt of an article he wrote for Habitat Debate in 2007. In 2002 on the occasion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development is reproduced here with the kind permission of his office.

It is common cause that it is impossible for human beings to live together as a community without law to regulate that communal existence. Law, even if it be of the most rudimentary kind, is indispensable for even the most primitive society. The caveman had to acknowledge certain taboos, that some things just were not done, that there were parameters that could not be trespassed without grave consequences for the perpetrator and perhaps his community. If everyone, as they say, was a law unto themselves then life would be reduced to an intolerable chaos.

It is difficult enough as it is to drive on the roads of most cities. Imagine what it would be if all did as they pleased when their conduct would be totally unpredictable since it was not ordered and therefore orderly. It should therefore be axiomatic that some sort of law is utterly indispensable if society is to continue in being.

A good law is one that obliges obedience because it commends itself as equitable and just, as being possibly the closest approximation to the morally good, beautiful and true. In an ideal world the expectation would be that law and the moral imperative would coincide.

Alas, we inhabit a less than ideal world. Far too frequently, what is



**Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu . Photo © Office of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu**

decreed by law falls desperately short of that which is morally attractive. And yet many are surprised that what is legal is not necessarily what would be morally right. In the apartheid years we had our work cut out trying to convince people that because something was legal was no reason to believe that it was ethically acceptable, anything but.

This was the only country, we pointed out for instance, where it would be a criminal offence for a wife to sleep with her husband. When people were appalled at such an unbelievable thing being the case we would remind them

that if a man was a migrant worker living usually in a single-sex hostel, and his wife were to visit him, unless she had a permit to be there in the urban area, she would be contravening the stringent Influx Control regulations, part of the iniquitous Pass Laws that controlled the movement of blacks so rigidly. We pointed out then that when Parliament was sovereign it could pass any law and that would be legal but by no means necessarily morally right. Frequently it was the very opposite.

We were vilified in the struggle for justice not only for doing that heinous thing, mixing religion with politics, not just for opposing the then Government but we showed how unashamedly immoral we were by disobeying the law. We had in the view of our adversaries shown just how low we were prepared to sink. After all these laws had been passed by a duly elected Parliament and passed with a punctilious concern for the minutiae of correct procedure, three readings, committee stage and all that, which would have warmed the cockles of the hearts of the most fastidious. It was a small detail to be ignored that the vast majority of the land had been deliberately excluded from the political process and that that subverted the entire process, that it might be legal but not legitimate and certainly unethical.



Laws passed in such a fashion were almost certainly going to have a baneful, a deleterious impact on the lives of the disenfranchised who were legislated for. And so it turned out to be. The laws buttressed a socio-economic and political system that was designed to keep the black man, woman and child thoroughly in their place.

There was no subtlety about it at all - no semantics about separate but equal. It was thoroughly separate and decidedly unequal. By any measure, the whites were accorded a plethora of privileges and benefits and by the same token blacks were pushed to the bottom of the pile. There was rigid residential segregation and influx control.

White suburbs were leafy with street lighting, paved streets, and beautiful well built houses; there were public swimming pools and libraries. All these amenities were glaringly conspicuous by their absence in the black ghettos which were characterised

by squalor, deprivation and poverty frequently without even waterborne sewerage.

There was a huge housing shortage because of the myth of the black being but a temporary sojourner in so-called white South Africa. Thus hardly any budget provision was made for black housing and we are now paying the price with all the informal settlements burgeoning around our cities. It was the same skewed allocation of resources for education and health and we are dealing with the nightmare of inferior education doled out to blacks in those awful years when the law decreed that blacks should be the recipients of inferior health and education provision.

The lives of many blacks were blighted not accidentally, but by deliberate Government policy. Whole communities were uprooted and dumped in poverty-stricken Bantustan resettlement camps and people starved not because there was no food, but by deliberate

Government policy through the iniquitous laws that were passed with such gay abandon, when the rule of law was seriously subverted through practices that by-passed due process as with banning orders, house arrest and detention without trial.

The lives of most blacks could not be regarded as anything but a miserable eking out of existence as not even second class citizens because they were not in law citizens.

People suffered from cholera because of a lack of clean water in a country that had pioneered the sophisticated medical procedure of heart transplants. Because electricity was not affordable and readily available, people were forced to cut down trees for fuel with dire consequences for the environment.

That was the before picture.

Now in the after picture with the advent of a democratic dispensation many things have



Kibera slum, Nairobi, Kenya, one of the largest slums in Africa. Photo © UN-HABITAT/Nathan Kihara



changed and changed quite dramatically.

We have become a land where the Constitution and not Parliament is sovereign and an entrenched Bill of Rights. The highest court of the land is our Constitutional Court which has already in a very brief period established a formidable and enviable reputation. It has handed down judgements that are truly epoch-making. The Constitution accords each South African a whole range of rights.

- **The State must respect, protect, promote and fulfil the rights in the Bill of Rights.**

#### ENVIRONMENT

Everyone has the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or wellbeing; to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations through reasonable legislative and other measures that prevent pollution and ecological degradation, promote

conservation, secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable eco and social development.

#### HOUSING

Everyone has the right to have access to adequate housing. The State must take reasonable Legislative and other measure within its available resources to achieve the progressive realisation of this right.

#### HEALTH

Everyone has the right to have access to healthcare services including reproductive health care; sufficient water; social security, including if they are unable to support themselves and their dependants; appropriate social assistance.

- **The State must take reasonable legislative and other measures within its available resources to achieve progressive**

#### **realisation of each of these rights.**

These include so-called socio-economic rights which until the Constitutional Court's pronouncements have usually been considered as ideals to be striven after but not really judiciable. Our Constitutional Court has ruled that within its capacity the Government has an obligation to provide adequate housing and the concomitant amenities to its citizens. It has ruled in favour of access to anti-retroviral drugs to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Those judgements speak about the quality of life of the citizens of a country and that law has a vital part to play in sustainable development, that it is a legal and moral obligation for the Government to see to it that all its citizens have the chance of a decent life which will have an impact on the environment.

When people are reasonably well off they will tend not to litter, to





pollute. They will be more caring of the environment because they will be a great deal more house-proud, more environmentally aware, because when they are not eking out an existence they will have time for recreation and they will want an attractive environment. The right kind of law will have an enormous impact on all of this.

We also need good, concerned jurists who care about the right things. In South Africa we have had experience of the two kinds of judges – those who benefited from the previous dispensation, and who, by and large, wanted to see that status quo remain unchanged and so they tended to side with the Executive, they often colluded with the prosecution and hardly ever gave the benefit of the doubt to those who were usually black who wanted to change that unjust system.

They hardly ever for instance believed the black accused in a political trial when they complained of being tortured, nor

did they try to mitigate the rigors of solitary confinement, accepting confessions that had been made under considerable duress. It was not surprising they had been brought up in that system and imbibed its mores and enjoyed its privileges and they could not countenance that changing.

Now we have a different breed of judges. Many were harassed and paid a heavy price in the old dispensation and they are libertarians, they fill one with exhilaration in their commitment to freedom and justice and goodness and compassion.

So the law has a crucial role, but so have judges who can stand up against strong public opinion as ours have done in knocking down the death penalty as unconstitutional despite very strong calls for its return in the face of a high crime rate. We are proud of our new crop who could find in favour of gay rights in the face of a strong streak of homophobia. It is exhilarating.

**Most city dwellers across Africa struggle to eke a living.**

**Photos ©  
UN-HABITAT/  
Eldson Chagara/  
Lilongwe,  
Malawi**

Over the next six years, UN-HABITAT will endeavour to fulfil a truly catalytic role to marshal the goodwill, the know-how and the resources of all spheres of government, of civil society, of international, regional and domestic financial institutions, and of the private and community sectors to focus sharply on the key determinants for sustainable urbanisation and inclusive urban development

# 02

## A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

The Governing Council approval of UN-HABITAT's **Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan for 2008-2013** was landmark decision of direct relevance to reform of the United Nations system. The new plan has two main components, a strategic component and an institutional component.

### THE STRATEGIC COMPONENT

The strategic component is driven by an ambitious vision and a robust road map for sustainable urbanization. With half of humanity living in urban areas as of the end of 2007, this is a vision of a world where all can gain access to decent housing, clean water and basic sanitation. It is also a vision of a world where humanity can engage in its social, economic and cultural pursuits without compromising the ability of future generations to do so. In an increasingly and rapidly urbanizing world, such a vision and road map are critical to the attainment of the *Habitat Agenda* and the Millennium Development Goals.

After much consultation during the year with its partners at every level UN-HABITAT reached the conclusion that this vision is realistic and achievable because the road map for the implementation of the Plan is guided by the principle of enhanced partnerships, and not by the capacities of the United Nations or of UN-HABITAT alone.

Over the next six years, UN-HABITAT will endeavour to fulfil a truly catalytic role to marshal the goodwill, the know-how and the resources of all spheres of government, of civil society,



**An architectural masterpiece in Burj Al Arab, Dubai. Ensuring sustainable urbanisation and inclusive urban development are key elements of the UN-HABITAT strategic plan. Photo © Xing Zhang**

of international, regional and domestic financial institutions, and of the private and community sectors to focus sharply on the key determinants for sustainable urbanization and inclusive urban development.

These areas are: pro-poor land and housing; participatory planning and governance; environmentally sound infrastructure and services; and innovative housing and urban finance. Work in these areas will be spearheaded by a *Global Campaign on Sustainable Urbanization* to mobilise political will and commitment.

By year's end, several of these partnerships were already in the making. Examples include UN-HABITAT's collaboration with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) covering urban crime prevention and safety. Formally recognized and endorsed by the Commission on Crime, this will lead to joint activities on the ground to improve safety, security and justice for all, but especially for the one out of three urban dwellers who live in the world's slums.

UN-HABITAT also started a closer collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) on health in cities, particularly as it affects the urban poor. The agency's ongoing work with the World Bank within the framework of the Cities Alliance is also

expanding as is its collaboration with regional development banks which has thus far resulted in over \$1.5 billion in follow-up investment in pro-poor water and sanitation.

In short, the vision of sustainable urbanization is an achievable one.

It is achievable because the Plan builds on the growing realization of the international community that urbanization, despite all of its chaotic manifestations, represents a unique opportunity – a positive force – that can and must be harnessed to support economic growth and social advancement in a globalizing world economy.

"In this context we are proud to be associated with the United Nations Population Fund which, building on our 2003 Global Report on Human Settlements entitled, *The Slum Challenge*, has in its 2007 *State of the World's Population* report focused on "Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth", " Mrs. Tibaijuka said. "We are equally happy that in producing the Human Development Report, 2006 on Water, the UNDP took note of our triennial report, *Water and Sanitation in the World's Cities: Local Action for Global Goals* of March 2003, to further amplify and popularize our findings on the very sad state of affairs in urban slums on these issues."

## THE INSTITUTIONAL COMPONENT

On the institutional front, the Medium-term Plan aims to place UN-HABITAT at the forefront of reform. A key component emphasised at meetings during the year was management excellence where accountability, transparency, results-based monitoring and reporting will become not the exception, but the rule.

Given the rapid growth of the organization in the last 5 years, UN-HABITAT was keenly aware at year's end that it did not have all of the requisite expertise in-house. And it appealed to member States to provide it with the additional resources, be they in-cash or in-kind, to help implement state-of-the-art management processes and reform befitting the agency's new status.





Beneficiaries  
laying pipes for a  
water project in  
Nepal.  
Photo ©  
UN-HABITAT



It was for these reasons that our flagship publication in 2007, the latest **Global Report on Human Settlements** carried a record of over 20 high profile **terrorist incidents** between 1997 and 2006 that took heavy toll in **human lives**, causing untold **injuries** and serious damage to property. They included attacks in Luxor, Egypt, to the World Trade Centre in New York, and **bombings** in Bali, Madrid, London and Mumbai, to cite a few.

# 03

## SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION

### CULTIVATING PARTNERS

UN-HABITAT made considerable progress in 2007 in its long campaign for closer relationships with civil society, parliamentarians, and the private sector around the world, as well as within the United Nations system. Be they non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, women's and youth groups, trade unions, urban professionals, researchers and spiritual organizations – all showed us new ways of helping the poor. And many have developed effective ways of working with their national governments and municipalities.

It was here that the Governing Council provided a considerable boost in several of the resolutions outlined in these pages. Key among these, for example, was the importance delegates representing 92 countries at the meeting accorded to the rights of women, especially women living in abject poverty. Key publications included, a new brochure entitled, *UN-HABITAT & Youth*, articles in *Habitat Debate*, the publication, *Youth Entrepreneurship and Empowerment*, the youth chapter in *the State of the World's Cities 2006/7*, and the publications, *The Global Partnership Initiative*, *Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-Led Development*, *Youth in Development: Bringing Ideas into*



**Women actively participating in making decisions for housing reconstruction in Southern Lebanon. Lack of women's rights to land, property and housing remains a formidable challenge facing the world today. Photo © UN-HABITAT/C.Mathie**

*Action*, and a Working Manual for One Stop Youth Information and Resource Centres.

The year started with the African Summit of Civil Society Organizations at the UN-HABITAT headquarters in January 2007. It brought together 95 participants from 19 countries to discuss how best to strengthen the African civil society infrastructure.

Our partners around the world include some of those least able to speak out for themselves. UN-HABITAT held six meetings at headquarters for children with disabilities living in slums.

Thanks to funding worth EUR 100,000 from our private sector partner, BASF AG of Ludwigshafen Germany, UN-HABITAT started a new care centre to assist children with disabilities living in an overcrowded Nairobi slum called Kibera. The agency has been working closely with BASF in post-disaster reconstruction work in southeast Asia.

In a follow-up to the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APAMCHUD) in New Delhi in December 2006, Governments from the region agreed to establish a permanent Secretariat with

funds and staff to implement the action plan adopted in New Delhi by ministers from 40 Asia-Pacific countries. A second meeting was held in Amman, Jordan in October 2007 to maintain the momentum for subsequent ministerial sessions in Iran and Indonesia.

The APAMCHUD conference follows the establishment in recent years of similar regional housing and urban development bodies, AMCHUD in Africa and MINURVI in Latin America.

The Americas regional chapter of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat met in Monterrey, Mexico in October 2007 for World Habitat Day and a UN-HABITAT conference on safer cities. It drew more than 100 MPs from that region who signed a joint declaration adding their clout in support of UN-HABITAT.

## CEMENTING TIES WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Two key resolutions at the 2007 Governing Council served to consolidate and streamline our work with local authorities around the world. The resolution on **Guidelines on Decentralisation and Strengthening of Local Authorities** has been the fruit of 10 years of labour. It entailed extensive consultations with member States, working with the agency's local authority partners and many experts. This resolution gives us the means to engage member States in one of the key aspects of the *Habitat Agenda* – supporting efforts in strengthening the frontline role of local authorities in its implementation.

Backing up the resolution, the agency produced a handbook entitled, *International guidelines*

*on decentralisation and the strengthening of local authorities.*

The other important resolution was on **Guiding Principles for providing Basic Services**. This one allows us to go directly to member States, our traditional partners including local authorities and civil society organisations, as well as our relatively new partners among utility firms and service providers, on important urban matters. It is important when it comes to enhancing their respective roles and contributions towards the attainment of the water and sanitation targets of the internationally agreed development goals. These principles will provide a key entry point for strengthening our normative work in promoting more effective policies and regulatory frameworks for the reaching out to the poor.

UN-HABITAT urged decision-makers at the UN climate convention in Bali in December to get local authorities around the world more closely involved in the drive to tackle climate change.

## ENGAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Given the enormity of the urban challenge, UN-HABITAT moved further during 2007 than in any previous year to engage the private sector as a vital partner in our quest for sustainable cities.

Private companies have understood the crucial need to maintain the stability and the health of cities, building alliances and working with the international community to devise corporate responsibility programmes as their contribution to development.

UN-HABITAT encouraged

Governments to provide the regulatory and fiscal policy frameworks so that private sector development activities are made more effective.

While the private sector realises that uncontrolled development adds significant risks to their business activities, it also increasingly acknowledges the business potential of untapped market niches in under-served urban areas. A growing number of companies developed attractive, affordable technologies and effective business models delivering shelter and services to middle and low-income urbanites, while profitably increasing their supply chains, providing employment opportunities and stimulating urban entrepreneurship.

Launched in April 2007, the Business Partnership for Sustainable Urbanization (BPSU), a strategic platform designed for business companies and related partners explored business models and untapped opportunities in cities while engaging the private sector in working towards a more sustainable urbanization. The Partnership's key challenge is to address the markets at the bottom of the economic pyramid for the world's 2 billion low-income urban dwellers.

Finding solutions to address markets at the bottom of the pyramid must start by promoting those businesses that already work in the large under-tapped areas, be they in the slums and other lower income neighbourhoods. From the global leaders to the small and medium sized enterprises, UN-HABITAT has engaged in a decisive effort to rally the business community to the cause of sustainable urbanization.





**Youth and children participate in a national housing campaign in Nepal. Photo © UN-HABITAT**

Our business partners have also understood the comparative advantages of UN-HABITAT, present in the field in more than 120 countries, offering the flexibility of a modest programme and responsive in addressing concrete needs on the ground for tangible and visible results.

Championed by our host Government, Kenya, the Governing Council resolution entitled, *Sustainable public-private partnership incentives for attracting large-scale private sector investment in low-income housing*, highlighted the importance of incentives for the creation of new public-private partnerships with wider outreach.

### WORKING WITH YOUTH

During 2007 UN-HABITAT worked in many countries around the world to help empower urban youth in the areas of entrepreneurship, education and training, capacity building, urban governance, employment, and crime prevention.

The fact that 500 million young people around the world live on less than USD 2 per day, was not lost on Mr. Ban-Ki Moon. After his visit to the Nairobi slum, Kibera – home to 700,000 people crammed into a place the size of a golf course – a new local *Youth Empowerment Project* was born thanks to funding he sent. And thanks to the generous financial and political support of Norway, the Governing Council also acknowledged the situation with its resolution to establish an *Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development*.

More than 200 young people participated at three Governing Council events – a Business Expo, the Youth Enterprise Day and the MDG Town, promoting awareness of the Millennium Development Goals to reduce global poverty.

UN-HABITAT also hosted the *International Youth Day 2007*. We also joined our sister agency, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at the TUNZA International Youth Conference in Leverkusen, Germany in August. During the course of year, urban youth in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Israel, Palestine, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya, signed up for the agency's *We are the Future* and *Global Partnership Initiative for Urban Youth Development* programmes.

## CRIME PREVENTION IS NOT JUST A POLICE MATTER

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In a 2007 article for Habitat Debate, a key contributor to UN-HABITAT's latest Global Report, **Richard H. Schneider**, Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the College of Design, Construction and Planning, at the University of Florida, there are others who must play supporting roles to ensure safer cities.

As UN-HABITAT's new Global Report on Human Settlements 2007 makes clear, crime, and especially violent crime, is a major threat to human security. Moreover, it stresses that crime prevention is a job too big for the police alone.

Crime wounds individuals, cripples families, shatters the trust among neighbours and within communities and threatens the economic viability of states. It is a particular risk for those nations already mired in poverty, trapped by bad governance, civil war and unaccountable bureaucracies. For these and other reasons, crime and the fear of crime consistently rank among the top quality of life concerns identified by citizens on surveys in developing and transitional nations.

And while crime control has been traditionally considered the role of the police, other actors and agencies must play supporting roles if better security in cities is to be realized. Evidence to support this comes from global crime statistics based on police records as well as on the perceptions of ordinary citizens.

Likewise, international data consistently shows that city dwellers face unequal crime risks connected, in part, to their locations. Indeed, even in those cities of Sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean Basin and Latin America, where violent crime rates are the highest in the world, most places are safe and most people are neither victims nor perpetrators of crime. Rather, crime is generally concentrated at certain places, affecting vulnerable citizens who are often repeat victims. Indeed, modern crime analysis suggests that both the questions of who did it and where are important considerations in understanding why crimes are committed in the first place.

Much crime, like most natural disasters, is largely predictable given the constellation of underlying risk factors. One of these – poor urban planning and management of public spaces – is a relatively recent addition to the list of “usual suspects” (including, inequality, poverty, cultural factors, unemployed youthful populations, and fundamental social and economic transitions). This is another spawn of bad governance. The impacts are documented by a body of evidence connecting poor (or non-existent) urban planning and design decisions with enhanced crime opportunities, especially for crimes that have strong environmental components such as burglary and criminal damage to property. This also suggests that crime prevention, beyond being a responsibility of the police, is also a function of agencies that monitor and direct development processes. These are, generally speaking, planning departments or authorities.

But most planning authorities, even in the developed world, have been slow to incorporate crime prevention planning strategies into fundamental policy. This is particularly evident in comprehensive planning (sometimes called

master planning) processes which focus on land use, transportation, water supply, sewage, infrastructure and capital facilities elements, but which fail to make the linkage with crime.

The decision to light streets is but one example of this connection. After dark, lighting can make or break the viability of public spaces – squares, plazas, streets, and parks – which in turn has ripple effects on the sense of community. For these reasons, national policy in some developed nations, such as Britain and Canada, has come to connect physical planning and social development with crime prevention. This is also a fundamental strategy of UN-HABITAT's Safer Cities Programme which emphasizes local level connections between environmental design and planning policy outputs with actual crime prevention outcomes.

Despite these important efforts, more needs to be done to incorporate crime prevention into planning policy decision-making, especially as it relates to the public realm. This is one component of involving the larger community, which is absolutely essential to positive outcomes. As suggested above, a significant barrier to this has been the traditional view that crime prevention is the role of the police alone. Abetting this is the lack of knowledge of public authorities, including high level elected and appointed officials – as well as police and planners – as to the intimate relationship that planning and design decisions have with crime opportunities in cities.

What is the way forward? Suggestions lie in four interrelated initiatives which include:

- The generation of new empirically-based knowledge on planning and crime. This includes honest evaluations of implemented crime prevention strategies and more extensive use of local citizen crime surveys and crime audits.
- Enhanced cooperation among academic and research institutions with police, health care, development management and social service institutions, all prime data sources.
- The incorporation of new and existing crime prevention knowledge into the core college curricula of planners, architects, landscape architects, engineers and public administrators who help organize and shape cities.
- The development and implementation of targeted training materials for policy makers, planning and police managers on the roles that the built environment plays in crime prevention and reduction.

The goal is to build crime prevention planning into comprehensive city planning policy and processes. This is one, among many ways, to expand crime prevention responsibilities beyond the police so as to better address threats to human security in cities posed by crime and the fear of crime.



## BUILDING ECONOMIC STRATEGIES FOR THE URBAN POOR

UN-HABITAT conducted a major research initiative to review regulatory factors constraining the development and operation of informal enterprises in urban areas. The main outcome was a UN-HABITAT report entitled *Innovative Policies for the Urban Informal Economy* and a *Habitat Debate* special issue on the urban informal economy. Both published in 2007, these policies can go a long way in promoting more equitable urban development paths.

Employment opportunities for the urban poor are affected by diverse factors, including favourable macroeconomic conditions; an enabling environment for private sector investment; sustained public investment in urban infrastructure; and regulatory constraints on small businesses. In this regard, the role of urban informal economy has become increasingly important

A first concrete activity under Lake Victoria initiative is a pilot project to increase the production of banana-based beverages in the Lake Victoria region. In cooperation of the governments of Tanzania and Uganda, UN-HABITAT and its partners are jointly funding the construction of two banana-based drinks facilities in Tanzania and Uganda. The aim is to help alleviate poverty in the region through commercialization of higher value added banana-based products and thus to improve links between rural products and urban markets.



**Bricks crafted by small scale entrepreneurs in rural areas are widely used for construction in urban areas in Madagascar. Research has shown that the urban economy can also be an engine for rural development.**

**Photo © UN-HABITAT/Mamy Mahenintiana**

in employment and income generation, particularly in the cities of developing country cities.

The urban economy can also be an engine of rural development since urban markets provide powerful incentives for increased rural production and employment. Given the considerable degree of socio-economic interdependence between urban and rural areas in most countries, the international development agenda has given increasing importance to the promotion of a more balanced approach to the development of the two areas, namely the *rural-urban linkage approach*.

UN-HABITAT last year was at the forefront of the formulation and dissemination of rural-urban development strategies, through both the publication of several path-breaking reports and

the implementation of specific programmes. For example, with aim of revitalizing local economies in the Lake Victoria region, UN-HABITAT took the lead in developing a regional programme of action called the Lake Victoria Local Economic Development Initiative in collaboration with other UN and multi-lateral agencies. Launched in early 2007, it is aimed at strengthening the regional economy, notably through improved agricultural productivity and the development of complementary urban markets.

## BUILDING ECONOMIC STRATEGIES FOR THE POOR - AN EXAMPLE WORTH FOLLOWING.

Early in the year, **Caroline Skinner**, a Research Fellow at the School of Development Studies of University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa and **Richard Dobson** of the South African NGO Asiye Etafuleni (Zulu for 'Bring it to the Table'), explained in **Habitat Debate** how local government successfully integrated informal traders at a busy intersection called Warwick Junction.

Warwick Junction on the edge of the inner-city is eThekweni's (Durban's) primary public transport intersection. On an average day it accommodates 460,000 commuters, and as many as 8,000 street traders.

Given the confluence of rail, taxi and bus transport, it has always been a natural market for street vendors. At the height of white rule in the apartheid era, however, informal trading was harshly controlled. It was only in the late 1980's that vendors were allowed to operate. By the mid-1990's nearly 4,000 traders were working in the area and it had become, through lack of management, a crime and grime hotspot.

In 1997 the city council launched an area based urban renewal initiative called the Warwick Junction Project to examine safety, cleanliness, trading and employment opportunities and the public transport efficiency. It set up special teams to deal with issues as diverse as kerbside cleaning, ablution facilities, child care facilities, pavement sleeping, and formalising the informal drinking outlets.

For many years the area had been a hub for traders of traditional medicinal herbs. In the late 1980's and early 1990's they would frequently be seen sleeping under plastic sheets at night. The first significant capital expenditure in Warwick established a Herb Traders Market with shelter, water and toilet facilities. Today it accommodates nearly 1,000 traders. In 1998, the first year the market operated, an annual turnover estimated at the equivalent of US\$23.6 million was reported. The cumulative employment generated, mostly people gathering medicinal products, was 14,000. The city council spent less than half a million dollars on this infrastructure but through this supported not only a significant contributor to the city's economy but also an employment generator.

In another intervention, city council officials concerned at open fires for corn and meat barbeques, worked with street cooks to design and build appropriate infrastructure that today is used by more than 100

cooks generating a weekly turnover estimated at US\$140,000 for a capital outlay of only US\$6,250.

In a further example of change for the better, in the late 1990's there were over 500 women collecting cardboard in the inner city who were being exploited in their precarious existence by unscrupulous middle men. The project established an inner city buy-back centre at Warwick Junction so that the cardboard could be sold directly to the recycling company. Although their incomes remain low, this saw an increase in their earnings of 300 percent.

Two core concerns of the project were cleanliness and crime. It was agreed with the traders that the area would be hosed down at night twice a month, while those using the area would also help with day to day cleaning.

To fight crime, a body called Traders Against Crime helped arrange training sessions with the police, resulting in a significant reduction in both petty and more serious crime in the area. An indication of this is that during the first 18 months of Traders Against Crime, there was only one murder in the area – compared to the 50 the previous year. The city demonstrated commitment to incorporating the informal economy and invigorated unprecedented levels of volunteerism.

The Warwick Junction Project worked well because the staff employed are dynamic and because eThekweni city council is relatively well off. The project has shown a shift in mindset to regard the informal economy as an economic asset. It also showed how by adopting a sector by sector approach to supporting the informal economy, informed by an understanding of economic dynamics, can bring success.

## MEETING GENDER CONCERNS

As part of the 2007 Governing Council resolutions on the agency's *Work Programme and Budget 2008-2009*, and *Women's land and property rights and access to finance*, the Executive Director was asked to develop a Gender Equality Action Plan for the years 2008-2013. This will serve as a strategic framework to guide and strengthen the gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment efforts of the organization. It will also bring UN-HABITAT in line with other UN agencies with existing action plans.

While the agency has had some success stories with regard to land, its research during the year showed that the implementation of women's rights to land, property and housing remains a formidable challenge facing the world today. This challenge persists despite a host of international human rights standards, Millennium Development Goal 3, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, where women's land, property and inheritance rights are seen as an important indicator of women's empowerment and human development.

Too often inheritance is treated as a peripheral issue in policies concerning security of tenure. Yet inheritance is the commonest way women are denied fair access to land. In a number of countries, the constitution still allows discriminatory customary practices against women.

In an effort to strengthen gender mainstreaming in its activities, UN-HABITAT initiated the development of resource materials on gender and post-crisis



Photo © UN-HABITAT / Veronica Wijaya

### WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN 2007 STILL POORLY LACKING

The resolution on Women's land and property rights and access to finance was proposed by the President of the twenty-first Governing Council, Ms. Kumari Selja, Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation of India.

Mrs. Tibaijuka paid special tribute to her for this proposal and passionately warned governments that they had to work harder to root out discrimination against women and if necessary change their constitutions accordingly.

The rights of women to land, property and housing remain a formidable challenge facing the world today. This challenge persists despite a host of international human rights standards, Millennium Development Goal 3, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, where women's land, property and inheritance rights are seen as an important indicator of women's empowerment and human development, she said.

"Inheritance is the commonest way women are denied fair access to land. In a number of countries the constitution still allows discriminatory customary practices against women," she said. "I am calling on all member States to review your constitutions and laws and root out any discrimination against women, to face the challenge of advancing the lives of women through improving their access to land and their legal empowerment. Where they do not exist, women's land and property rights need to be promulgated before one can tackle this problem seriously."

governance, reconstruction and land administration, gender in local governance, and best practices in gender mainstreaming in human settlements development.

The agency produced a work entitled, *Gender in Local governance: A sourcebook for trainers*. It is aimed at addressing the knowledge gap on gender and

human settlements development.

Gender mainstreaming work intensified in the areas of developing pro-poor and gender sensitive land tools under the Global Land Tool Network, and promoting cities which are safe for all, men, women and children, with particular emphasis on using urban planning to ensure women's safety and security in public spaces.

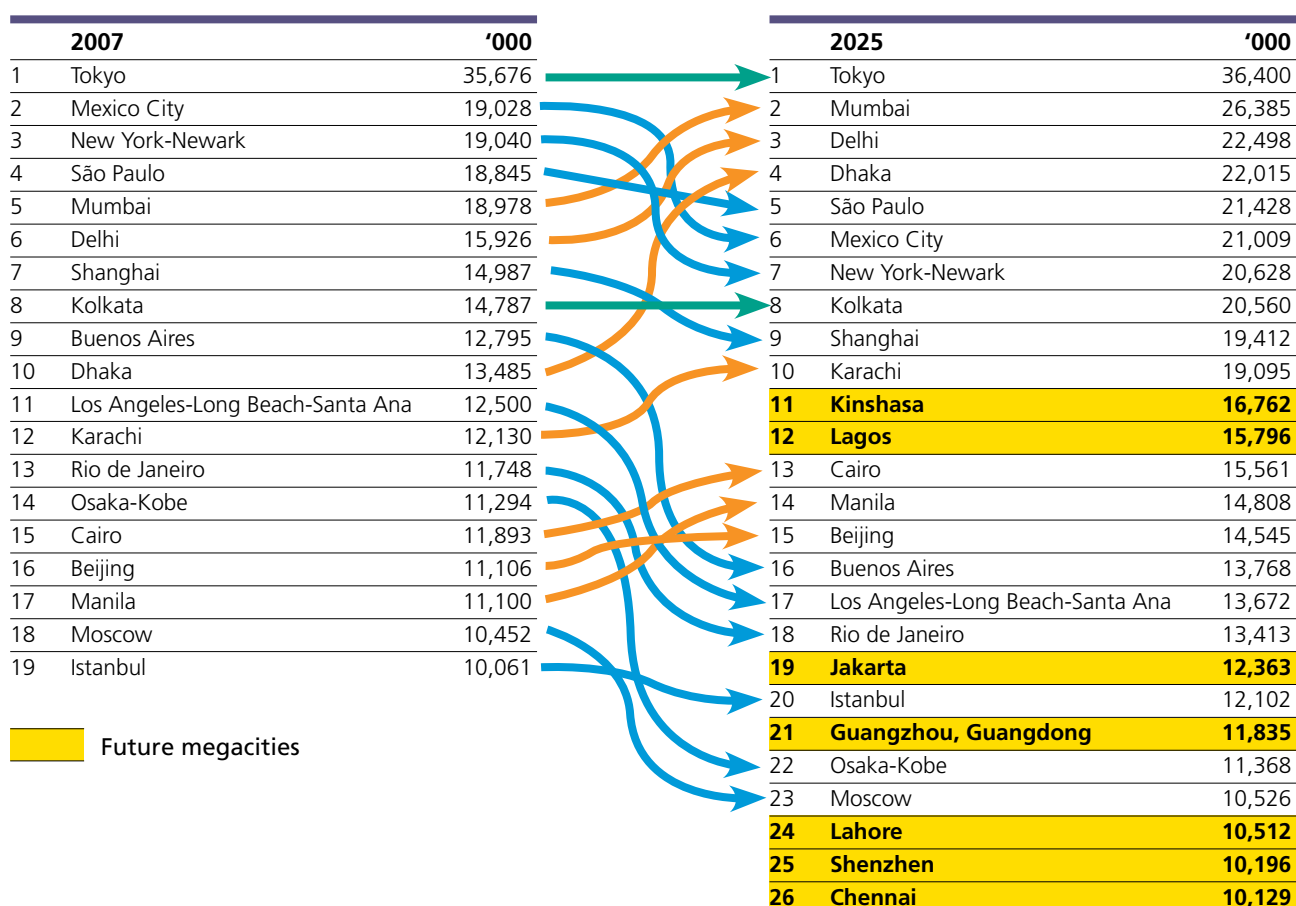
The leaders of women's of grassroots organizations in Africa were given a training programme. It aimed to help them engage with administrators and politicians in

local authorities, municipalities and central government, community leaders, civil society, the private sector and other relevant organizations in solving problems such as water, sanitation, security, the provision of infrastructure, health and education. As a follow-up to this training some participants initiated dialogues in their communities and organized national and community meetings in their respective countries.

An Expert Group Meeting on building partnerships on gender and local governance in Africa, which was the first of its kind,

identified a wealth of information, exacerbated by the neglect of tackling gender in local governance issues within the gender and development discourse. They called for a more coordinated approach to strengthen gender mainstreaming in local governance working closely with national local government associations, women's organizations, development agencies and research institutions.

FIGURE 1.1.2 POPULATION OF THE WORLD'S MEGACITIES, 2007 AND 2025



Source: UN-HABITAT 2008. Data from UN Population Division, World Urbanization Prospects 2007



Despite significant advances for women over the past three decades, women still live in fear of violence and personal insecurity, writes **Alicia Yon**, Convenor of the Commonwealth Association of Planners Women in Planning Network.

Research has shown that while the risk of violence against women is far greater at home than in public places, women constantly feel under threat in public places. Exacerbated by media reports, the fear of violence threatens the quality of life for women. It is also exacerbated by poor planning and urban design.

In 2007, women remained under-represented in decision-making processes, resulting in planning and design that fails to take their needs or concerns into account, and thus inviting criminal activity. Many governing authorities continue to view women in a stereotypical way and cities thus remain women-unfriendly.

“City women are living in fear today. In Colombia, women are afraid of becoming the targets of muggers or sexual harassment on the street, including rape or groping, which happens a lot on public transport,” said Ms. Marisol Dalmazzo, of the non-governmental Social Housing Association in remarks reflecting widely held views among women worldwide.

Women must be involved in political decision-making to ensure that their concerns are appropriately addressed. However, they are often reluctant, unwilling or unable to do so. Why is this the case? We know some of these reasons involve patriarchal societies, land ownership, illiteracy, lack of respect and gender-blind policies.

Understanding and addressing those differences and other

**“Rape has been established as a crime against humanity. We are going to strengthen the courts and the legal system to enforce persecution of anybody who commits rape.”**

— *President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Liberia*

symptomatic causes will allow women to freely raise their concerns and negotiate on a range of priorities in ways that positively respond to their circumstances and needs.

Good governance requires broad community representation, including directly involving women as key players to ensure it is equitable and sustainable. This is imperative for identifying and resolving issues such as service provision and delivery.

For those living in poverty, this entails safe access to water, the location and security of communal toilet facilities in informal settlements, slum upgrades, safe and improved street design, safer car parks, shopping centres, parks and public transport.

Improvements must underpin crime prevention through better urban and environmental design. These principles are slowly being incorporated into planning policy and programmes in developed nations. The challenge is how

to make this relevant to developing countries, particularly informal settlements.

Safer cities through crime prevention should be everyone's business, as violence against women affects entire families and whole communities. It reduces social capacity and community cohesion and it should be acknowledged that violence against women, exacerbated by poor urban planning is an issue for whole communities to tackle, which is long overdue.

“It is very difficult to get figures about casual sexual harassment: in big cities, generally speaking, it is not reported, not computed, and its perpetrators often go unpunished,” a young Cairo resident said in the report *Growing up urban*, just published by the United Nations Population Fund.

“But in a recent survey of women in Cairo published in the Arabic magazine *Nesa'a – Women* – one third of the women said that they are subject to it every day. Sexual harassment knows no bounds; women of all countries, all ages and social sectors have experienced it.

“Harassment can consist of touching, stalking, offensive words or flashing, and the degree of violence and aggression vary. But one thing is certain: for many women the city is a hostile place where no-one and nothing defends them,” she said.

Incorporating gender thinking and policy into all planning at every stage should drive the creation of safer cities so that women and others who feel threatened can contribute as equal members of society. Promoting well designed, accessible and safe public spaces will help empower women to fully participate in society without fear for their safety and security. It is a pre-condition for sustainability.

Doing this in accountable and transparent ways must involve women, which means planning for people with people. In conflict and disaster, the inclusion of a gender perspective in early warning systems is vital. It is equally vital in recovery afterwards.

At the political level, it is important to work towards the implementation of UN Resolution 1325 for the active involvement of local women in peace processes and to ensure they join international peace missions. Sexualized violence during war and crisis has to be recognized and penalized by national and international courts as a grave breach of human rights. Sexualized violence against women through enforced prostitution in the context of international peacekeeping and humanitarian missions has to be investigated and punished.

Urban planning that embraces crime prevention and good urban design does not necessarily cost a lot of money, whether in peacetime or after a disaster or conflict.

All it needs is a change in attitude.



## STRATEGIES FOR BETTER SHELTER

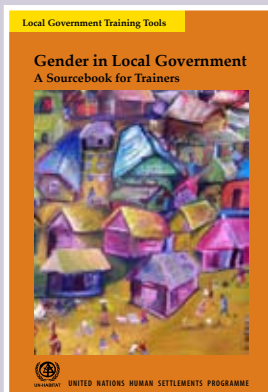
By year's end *The Global Land Tool Network* (GLTN) backed by UN-HABITAT had made considerable progress since its launch in June 2006. The objective of the Network is to contribute to poverty alleviation and help attain the Millennium Development Goals on the environment and slums, women's land, housing and property rights, and food security through land reform, improved land management, and security of tenure.

During 2007 the Network expanded from 24 global partners to 30 representing organisations with a global mandate. All have agreed to the values of the GLTN Network. They also agreed to land tool development at scale and to land tool development that can be scaled up. Furthermore, they are ready to provide financial input and expertise, to represent regional and international institutions, organisations or networks.

The partners represent rural international civil societies, urban international civil societies, bilateral and multilateral organisations, international training institutions, professional bodies, and research institutions. All work on implementing pro-poor land policies that accommodate the needs of the poorest people, gender concerns and governance – not just the technical applications. Furthermore, the Network members (individuals who registered at the GLTN website: [www.glttn.net](http://www.glttn.net)) increased from less than 200 to almost 600 representing more than 125 countries worldwide.

In 2007, the Network produced

### SOME TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING HIGHLIGHTS IN 2007



UN-HABITAT partnered with the **Simon Fraser University of Canada** to deliver a course on Strategic Planning for Sustainable Community Economic Development. The **Canadian Institute of Planners** bestowed UN-HABITAT and **Ecoplan International** an Excellence award in Planning in recognition of their work in Local Economic Development. The International Urban **Training Centre (IUTC)** was officially launched in May 2007 by the Province of Gangwon, Republic of Korea and UN-HABITAT. The centre is dedicated to

training and capacity building targeted at municipal authorities and their partners. IUTC was established to build the capacity of cities and towns nationally and in the Asian and Pacific region in support of the goal of sustainable urbanization.

The year also marked the first edition in Helsinki, Finland, of a two-week training course for mid-career professionals on “**Sustainable Communities**”. The course was organized jointly by the **Helsinki University of Technology (TKK)**, UN-HABITAT and the United Nations Environment Programme, and funded by the **Government of Finland**. Key topics included: good governance for sustainable communities; risk and vulnerability reduction; and urban planning for sustainability. The **Asian Institute of Technology** in Bangkok and the University of Nairobi were identified as course venues for the coming two years.

a land tool inventory of Latin America and in Asia. It also documented ongoing land tool development and pro poor practices, and provided support for a summit of world leaders. It also backed up the African land policy framework and the development of land indicators for security of tenure. It also initiated the development of a global Land Administration Domain Model showing how basic rights, taxes and gender concerns can be incorporated into land policy.

In terms of advocacy and capacity building the Network conducted seven expert group meetings

during the year, and developed a curriculum on transparency and land administration for Africa. It also produced a course on transparency and land administration, as well as five publications on land management and poverty alleviation, and the creation of the GLTN website which has proved quite popular.

### PROMOTING TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

In 2007, UN-HABITAT produced four major new training manuals, and held 20 training seminars around the world that drew more

than 600 participants.

The new manuals are, a *Training Companion for Participatory budgeting in Africa*, available in English and French; a *Trainer's Guide for Local Economic Development*; a Quick Guide series was been launched on Housing the Urban Poor in Asian Cities in partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP); and a *Gender in Local Government Sourcebook* for trainers.

The year's training events were arranged in collaboration

with various national training institutions. Local elected leadership, development, and government financial management training was held in Tanzania, Lesotho, Egypt, Rwanda, Haiti, Palestine and India. A regional level "training of trainers" event was held in Asia on localizing the Millennium Development Goals through Innovative Leadership and Community Empowerment. Financial management and leadership training was also held in the South Pacific region. In Africa, eight countries joined a regional workshop on participatory budgeting.

UN-HABITAT in 2007 also adopted Internet-based distance learning as a tool to deliver training courses. The key objective is to complement the current synchronous training approach. A blended approach to distance learning is expected to generate a wider training delivery impact and a reduction in direct costs related to training. A first course on 'Key competencies for local elected leadership' is now being administered based on the UN-HABITAT Local Elected leadership series. UN-HABITAT plans to expand on-line courses in the future.

#### URBAN REHABILITATION PROJECTS IN RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL



**Fubá-Campinho Complex, one of the 700 slums (favelas) in the city of Rio de Janeiro, lacked space for leisure and recreation, and mechanisms to prevent damage from heavy rain and floods. With help from the Municipality of Rio de Janeiro, the Neighborhood Association of Fuba-Campinho tackled these problems.**



**Stairs and roads were built to help people in Vila Primavera navigate especially during the rainy season, when mud and trees made it impossible for those who lived in the upper zone of the slum to reach their homes.**





**Construction of a kindergarten in São João slum provided a place where children could learn while their parents work.**



**In Pau Bandeira slum, local government and civil society worked together to open a way for pedestrians and paper pickers' chariots.**

**Photos © Habitat Municipal Secretariat/Municipality of the City of Rio de Janeiro**

## DISSEMINATING BEST PRACTICES

The transfer of best practices and the application of lessons learned in 2007 took on a growing international impetus. UN-HABITAT joined the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Network of Innovators in Public Administration in the Mediterranean Region at the Seventh Global Forum on

Re-inventing Government in Vienna to exchange lessons on transfer of innovations to enhance responsiveness of governments. A manual on best practice transfers for joint publication was developed testing and publication in 2008. It also joined several Latin American civil society organizations in a best practice transfer event in Colombia. The event brought together several winners of the Dubai International Award as

well as similar Latin American initiatives for mutual exchange and documentation of lessons learned. The UN-HABITAT Seville Best Practice Centre facilitated best-practice exchange meetings between Israeli and Palestinian mayors and local authority representatives. The centre also continued to promote contacts between European local authorities with their counterparts in the developing world.



## CHANGING CITIES, CHANGING CLIMATE

UN-HABITAT beefed up its battle against environmental deterioration and climate change within cities in 2007. Indeed, climate change is known to create food and water shortages, high energy consumption as well as the loss of coastal biodiversity. It was clear too that the risks associated with climate are highest in the developing world.

With this in mind, the agency was successful in improving the environmental planning and management at the local and national level mainly through two programmes, the *Sustainable Cities Programme* and the *Localising Agenda 21 Programme*, implemented in close collaboration with UNEP, and UN-HABITAT regional offices and other partner organizations.

By year's end the programmes, carrying an emphasis on climate change problems, had been brought to 144 municipalities in 26 countries. Through 16 sessions at international conferences and seven regional workshops, awareness of environmental planning and management was raised further. In the spirit of UN reform, the UNEP and UN-HABITAT developed a partnership framework for long-term cooperation. They two agencies broke new ground by starting to work on linkages between the local and global environment. In

this context a joint Memorandum of Understanding with ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability was signed to implement activities in the field of climate change and biodiversity.

A major achievement in this battle is the Climate Change Initiative of the new Sustainable Urban Development Network known as SUD-Net.

### CHANGING CITIES, CHANGING CLIMATE - THE SUD-NET WAY

The science tells us clearly that the way we generate and use energy, use our land, and conduct industrial and farming activities, contributes largely to climate change by the release of greenhouse gases leading to global temperature increases and climate is change.

With half of the world's population now urbanized, cities spew huge quantities of pollutants into the atmosphere, rivers and oceans, creating food and water shortages, driving up energy consumption, and destroying the environment. With more than 1 billion people living in slums around the world, it is clear that where the poverty is worse, the environmental degradation is worse, and of course, the poorest are most vulnerable of all to disasters like hurricanes or floods that may be caused in part by climate change.

UN- HABITAT is at the frontline of the battle against fast growing urban poverty, rapid urbanization, disasters and climate change impacts within cities. UN- HABITAT helps local governments build, manage, plan and finance cities without slums. Key here is promoting good environmental practices and spreading the word on conservation.

Through the Sustainable Urban Development Network (SUD-Net) Cities in Climate Change Initiative, UN- HABITAT can respond promptly in times of need. Moreover, SUD-Net aims to strengthen the capacity of local authorities on the mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

SUD-Net national climate change networks, coupled with technical support by UN-HABITAT, keep the local communities themselves involved with governments, local authorities and the private sector in the decisions that affect them. Progress was consolidated thanks to lessons learned during the year from the Sustainable Cities Programme and Localizing Agenda 21 Programme. What we have learned shows that it is logical and necessary for UN-HABITAT to deal with climate change at the local level.



## 04

## OUR GLOBAL REACH

As of the fourth quarter of 2007, UN-HABITAT had 137 technical cooperation programmes and projects under execution in 63 countries. In response to increasing demand, UN-HABITAT's technical cooperation activities have grown significantly from a total budget of USD 18.7 million in 1988, to USD 303.1 million in 2007. Roughly 12 percent of the financing for these 2007 technical cooperation projects came from various United Nations Development Programme funding sources, with the remainder derived from governments and third-party cost-sharing.

The countries included many of the poorest in the world like Somalia, Haiti, and Nepal, just to cite three examples. They also included an Italian-funded USD 7.5 million

housing programme in Serbia. Much of the work was aimed at strengthening the urban fabric, helping slum dwellers with better shelter and basic services such as water and sanitation. And most of the programmes were run by UN-HABITAT staff who are nationals of their own countries, proudly trying to improve their cities or to rebuild after disasters.

It is apt here to pay our own colleagues, these unsung heroes, special tribute. They include more 1,000 employees helping rebuild Afghanistan, dozens in Iraq, and other places of conflict who daily put their lives on the line to make their world better for their people, thus making our global village a safer place.

UN-HABITAT's operational work around the world is coordinated from four regional offices. These are based in Fukuoka, Japan, covering the Asia-Pacific, Warsaw covering eastern Europe and the former Soviet states, Nairobi for Africa and the Arab world, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The agency's operational activities remained focused during the year on supporting governments in the formulation of policies and strategies to create and strengthen a self-reliant management capacity at both national and local levels. Technical and managerial expertise is provided for the assessment of human settlements development constraints and opportunities; identification and analysis of policy options; the design

## DELIVERING AS ONE UN

At the beginning of 2007 Pakistan volunteered itself to be the testing ground for a new United Nations reform programme whereby all UN agencies in the country joined hands to work under one roof and provide their services as a One UN operation. Pakistan is host to more than 15 agencies and funds delivering services worth some USD 300 million annually. The UN country team therefore invited all of them, no matter how big or how small, and whatever their business, to sign up for the One UN programme. In Pakistan, the UN family recognizes that there is a need to move away from project management to providing strategic policy advice so as to fully exploit all the services the UN system can offer.

The Pakistan Habitat Country Programme Document was thus prepared as an integral part of the One UN programme. UN-HABITAT, based on the large operation in response to a devastating earthquake in October 2005, will contribute its expertise and experience in the Disaster Risk Management Joint Programme. The agency supports the incorporation of safer construction practices in academic and vocational training institutions and contributes to the development of safer pro-poor building codes and guidelines. Through the Environment Joint Programme, UN-HABITAT helps improve understanding of sustainable urbanization in Pakistan including access to basic services and security of tenure. UN-HABITAT also scheduled a Pakistan State of the Cities report.



and implementation of housing and urban development projects; and the mobilization of national resources, as well as external support for improving human settlements conditions. This national capacity-building process involves not only central government institutions but also community-based and non-governmental organizations, universities and research institutions, as well as local governments and municipalities. Emphasis is placed on strengthening local and national capacities in human settlements management.

In accordance with UN-HABITAT's work-programme, the operational activities are focusing on the following priorities: promoting shelter for all; improving urban governance; reducing urban poverty; improving the living environment; and managing post-disaster reconstruction.

Acting as a catalyst in the mobilization of technical cooperation, UN-HABITAT is supporting the implementation of the *Habitat Agenda* at the local, national and regional levels and seeking to apply the Millennium Development Goals at local neighbourhood level. Lessons garnered from operational activities are also used by the agency to formulate global policy guidelines.

At year's end, UN-HABITAT was employing Habitat Programme Managers in 35 developing countries, all of them nationals of the countries in which they work.

**UN-HABITAT has been helping the people of Banda Aceh to rebuild their lives and confidence through a participatory process. This takes time, especially amidst the tragedy of massive loss of life, property and livelihoods.**

**Photos © UN-HABITAT/  
Veronica Wijaya**







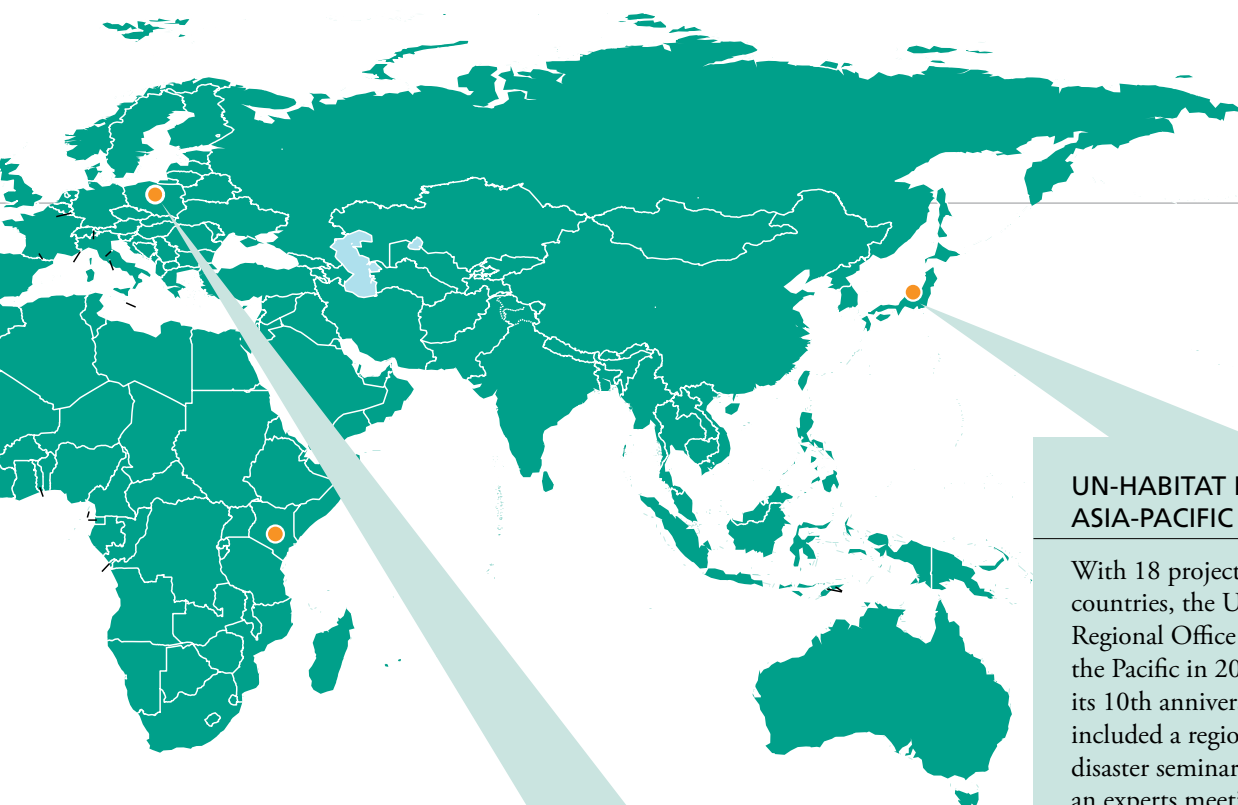
## UN-HABITAT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

In 2007 the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean had 56 projects in 16 countries. These included technical cooperation, disaster management, policy and capacity building programmes. Technical cooperation programmes were started in Mexico, Colombia and Ecuador. The agency which also employs Habitat Programme Managers in several countries in the region, worked with Cities Alliance projects in Brazil (Bello Horizonte), Chile and Ecuador, and other countries have project pipelines that will initiate during 2008 in Peru, Haiti, Paraguay and Argentina. Collaboration with the main regional bodies like the Association of Ministers of Urban Development and Housing (MINURVI - Ministros de Desarrollo Urbano y Vivienda), The Latin America Federation of Cities, Municipalities and Associations, (FLACMA - Federación Latinoamericana de Ciudades, Municipios y Asociaciones) and others such as the Habitat International Coalition have been valuable in helping position the Office. The year was also marked by excellent cooperation with the International Development Research Centre/ Environmental Management Secretariat (IDRC/SEMA - Secretariado de Manejo del Medio Ambiente) in reducing disaster vulnerability and municipal management in Central America. The Habitat Programme Managers in Costa Rica worked closely with the agency's headquarters in this work.

## UN-HABITAT IN AFRICA AND THE ARAB STATES

In 2007, the Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States was running 62 projects in 32 countries. Too numerous to list here, the projects helped make a real difference to people's lives. The agency's programme in Iraq, for instance, includes rehabilitation, policy and institutional reform, as well as training and capacity building in the urban, housing and community infrastructure sectors, much of it thanks to funding from Japan. In Sudan, UN-HABITAT worked in the capital Khartoum, East Sudan and troubled Darfur district, as well as with the Government of South Sudan. In Somalia, the agency was part of the Somalia Urban Development Programme, funded by the European Commission, UNDP, Japan and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom. In Chad, the government was given help to improve housing delivery and policy. And with funding from the European Union, CyprusAid, Finland and the Netherlands, UN-HABITAT continued a post-conflict reconstruction programme in Lebanese areas damaged during the 2006 Israeli bombing raids. In Egypt, the agency helped develop new strategic plans for 50 cities, including the capital, Cairo, and in Indonesia, to cite a final example, work continued apace on longer-term post-tsunami rehabilitation.





### UN-HABITAT IN EASTERN EUROPE AND BEYOND

Opened only in October 2006, UN-HABITAT's youngest regional office is located in the Polish capital, Warsaw to serve countries in central and southern Europe (the Balkans) and others further east (the Caucasus). As the new regional office began building its portfolio, it convened two special ministerial-level Advisory Council meetings – an inaugural session in Warsaw in February, followed by a meeting in Bucharest, Romania, the Warsaw Office offered to ministers and high officials responsible for housing and urban development in the countries of the region, a platform for enhanced cooperation and knowledge-sharing and a mechanism to keep high on the agenda housing and urban management challenges. Significant attendance clearly confirmed the need to vigorously improve exchanges on urban challenges in the region. The meetings also resulted in the Warsaw Declaration in which participating countries demonstrated their commitment to improved housing and integrated urban planning and management. In southeast Europe, UN-HABITAT provided the agency's latest guidelines and supported governments and its partners with capacity-building projects in areas ranging from housing and informal settlements upgrading, to basic services access, land management, integration of vulnerable groups, local leadership, integrated local and regional development, as well as reconstruction and post-crisis management.

### UN-HABITAT IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC

With 18 projects in 14 countries, the UN-HABITAT Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in 2007 celebrated its 10th anniversary. These included a regional post-disaster seminar in January, an experts meeting in June on ensuring gender concerns are incorporated into disaster and post-conflict programmes, an Asia City Journalists' Conference in August, a special meeting in September that looked at the anniversary in terms of where the regional Office stands today and how it moves forward. For this it produced a brochure on its achievements during 1997-2007 entitled, *Accommodating People in the Asia-Pacific Region*. Major projects in 2007 included ongoing post-tsunami and post-earthquake projects in Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand and northern Pakistan continued in 2007. The agency's huge post-conflict programme in Afghanistan grew and grew with its USD 74 million portfolio making it by far the largest managed by the regional office. Other projects were also underway, for example, in Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, South Korea and Viet Nam.



**A UN-HABITAT technical expert explains safe, earthquake resistant construction guidelines to villagers in Kashmir, Pakistan.**



**A widow supervises the work being done on her new home in Kashmir, Pakistan.**



## DELIVERING DISASTER RELIEF

The agency's disaster management work intensified in 2007 as more pressure was placed on the United Nations system to respond to the increasing number of natural disasters afflicting the world. Indeed, from its post-earthquake rehabilitation programme in north Pakistan, to similar longer term shelter rehabilitation for countries afflicted by a tsunami killer wave induced by undersea seismic activity in the Indian Ocean, UN-HABITAT teams were at work around the clock. The agency was also helping rebuild homes and lives in post-conflict zones as far afield as Iraq, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Somalia. Last year, UN-HABITAT took on new assignments in Uganda, and the troubled Darfur regions of Sudan, as well as Southern Sudan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, southeast Europe and Peru.

In the Balkans, the agency last year helped develop a new urban plan for Mostar, the fifth largest city in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It also assisted with inclusive spatial planning and participatory governance systems in the UN Administered Province of Kosovo. UN-HABITAT also helped set up a Regional Capacity Strengthening Programme for Housing and Urban Development in southeastern Europe.

Towards year's end, UN-HABITAT joined forces with UNDP in the Macedonian capital, Skopje, in an effort to help devise new legislation on illegal buildings.

**A women's committee meets to discuss reconstruction in a village in Kashmir, Pakistan.**

**Photos © UN-HABITAT/  
Veronica Wijaya**

## DELIVERING DISASTER RELIEF - KEYS TO NEW HOMES AND NEW LIVES.

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It is a very special occasion indeed that UN-HABITAT's work helping build new homes and new lives for thousands of disaster survivors gains international recognition on the world stage. Yet that great honour was conferred when the movie, *Playing Between Elephants* by Cameraman/Director **Aryo Danusiri** won the *Movies That Matter Human Rights Award* at the 9th Jakarta International Film Festival (JiFFest) in December 2007. It is a story about a chief in the scarred territory of north Sumatra, Indonesia, trying to lead his village through reconstruction and rehabilitation after the 2004 tsunami. The JiFFest, the biggest international film festival in Southeast Asia, judged it the best human rights feature film out of 180 movies from 33 countries. Here, the movie's Executive Director, **Binod K. Shrestha**, who serves as UN-HABITAT Programme Manager of the Aceh Nias Settlements Support Programme, and other members of the UN-HABITAT team tell the story behind the story.

It all culminated in the last week of November 2007 when our key partner, the Asian Development Bank joined us to hand over 486 new homes to the survivors. We presented the keys to the new owners at a special ceremony in the Nias Island village of Silimibanua.

These people had been forced to live in makeshift accommodation since the double blow of the Indian Ocean tsunami killer wave that struck on 26 December 2004, and an earthquake on 26 March 2005. Hope came a month later, when UN-HABITAT's Executive Director, Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka visited the region to show her solidarity and pledge the agency's assistance.

And through it all, Aryo Danusiri, kept his camera rolling. "We now have a place to call home," said Mr. Sokifhao, a farmer and father of five on receiving the keys to his new home from the Nias Settlements Support Programme (NSSP), a joint programme of the Bank and UN-HABITAT.

Mr. Pieter Smidt, the Bank's Head of Mission, said: "We believe that many lessons can be learned from the community-based housing process, in areas funded by ADB." "Right from the start, UN-HABITAT advocated that the 'recovery' strategy must put people at the very centre of decision-making so that reconstruction becomes part of a continuous recovery process," said Mr. Chris Radford, Senior Human Settlements Officer at UN-HABITAT.

Under the "off-budget" programme being implemented by UN-HABITAT and four NGOs – Muslim Aid, German Agro Action, another German NGO called Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe eV, and Cordaid of Holland, the Bank is financing the construction of about 3,000 new homes and the restoration of 1,050 others across Aceh and Nias. One third of the new homes are being constructed by UN-HABITAT.

In the neighbouring island of Simeulue, the Asian Development Bank and UN-HABITAT are assisting with the reconstruction of 459 homes in five villages.

We involved the survivors from day one in what we call the People's Process. Drawing on the agency's vast experience in post-disaster reconstruction and development and adapting it to local conditions, we agreed with the survivors on the establishment of three key components: the instrument – community institutions in the form of village committees and local councils to help make decisions; the means – planning mechanisms which were participatory and inclusive; and the mechanism – the establishment of a financing system to provide money for grants and infrastructure.

Despite the fact that UN-HABITAT homes were not as costly as other organisations, a survey by Syiah Kaula University showed the recipients were very happy with the outcome. And that is because we involved the people themselves right from the start.

Aryo's film traces challenges and pitfalls of community leadership. For Aryo, neither the choice of interesting aspects in this process, nor the selection of an exemplary village was easy. His patience in struggling with time constraints and his faithfulness in following through as events unfolded paid off.

**Lesson learned: It takes a village to rebuild a village.**



As a member of the UN Executive Committee for Humanitarian Affairs (ECHA), UN-HABITAT continued during the year to advocate for more sustainable response policies and strategies in collaboration with major humanitarian agencies. As a Focal Point Agency in the new UN Humanitarian Response System, UN-HABITAT supports an inter-agency forum for incorporating housing, land and property policies and strategies into operational responses for effective transition from disaster or conflict relief to development. These engagements are based on the unique position of having the mandate within the UN, both for addressing shelter and human settlements in crisis and in development. In 2007 members of the UN-HABITAT team in Geneva has undertaken technical advisory missions in support of the cluster interventions at the country level, namely to Bangladesh, Liberia, Mozambique, Pakistan, Peru, Senegal, Sudan, and Uganda.

Active participation in the wider UN humanitarian system enabled the agency to develop its normative work in 2007 through increased human and financial resources. UN-HABITAT used its *Sustainable Relief and Reconstruction* framework to evaluate its field experience in generating lessons learnt and developing new concepts for land and property rights, sustainable reconstruction methods and integrating disaster risk reduction into future disaster response both within the organization, and in support of the wider UN humanitarian community. The new framework and accompanying policy was endorsed by member governments in December 2007. The agency also participated actively in a number of disaster management training activities and special workshops, including an on-going graduate level course in Finland.



**Changing water use ethic among children is critical for conservation efforts to succeed. Photo © UN-HABITAT**

#### SCALING UP WATER AND SANITATION

Taking up the Governing Council resolution on a new mid-term plan for a more streamlined and effective agency, one of the first assignments it conducted was to draft a new *Forward Looking Strategic Plan for the UN-HABITAT Water and Sanitation Trust Fund 2008-2012*.

In 2007 UN-HABITAT also published a new *Framework for Promoting Pro-Poor Water and Sanitation Governance in urban Programmes and Projects*. Other published work during the year included the *Manual on the rights based approach to water and sanitation*. It was produced in collaboration with the Centre on Housing Rights and Eviction and other partners. UN-HABITAT also produced a water and sanitation guide entitled, *Local actions for Sustainable Development*. A compact disc

containing all documents published by UN-HABITAT was also produced during 2007 for wider dissemination. It also started work on a contribution to the third edition of the United Nations *World Water Development Report*.

A series of special seminars were held to review and strengthen the incorporation of gender concerns into all of UN-HABITAT's water and sanitation work. It also conducted rapid gender surveys in seven cities around the shores of Lake Victoria in central Africa as part of its *Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative* to ensure that gender and vulnerability needs are addressed at the local level.

UN-HABITAT also consolidated its work with the Global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance, a new body launched at the annual Stockholm World Water Week.

#### ADVANCING IMPLEMENTATION OF REPLICABLE INITIATIVES IN ASIA

In the great Mekong River delta, UN-HABITAT's popular MEK-WATSAN water and sanitation programme had by the end of 2007 benefited 44,000 people. Special fast-track initiatives also set the stage for larger investments to take the programme to more and more people. UN-HABITAT did this by conducting sector assessments and rapid surveys to help governments identify towns for external development assistance so that increased budgetary allocations can be made for water and sanitation. UN-HABITAT and UN Water are monitoring progress on achieving the water target of the Millennium Development Goals across the region.

## REGIONAL

The agency also consolidated and expanded its highly regarded regional water and sanitation programmes.

By year's end, the *Water for Asian Cities Programme* was now operational in 47 towns and cities in five countries with plans afoot to extend it Indonesia and Cambodia. During 2007, the programme continued its capacity building support in conjunction with projects in the region financed by our partner, the **Asian Development Bank**. Indeed, thanks to the excellent collaborative framework with the Bank, UN-HABITAT's programme is also associated with Bank investments in the order of USD 538.26 million across 30 towns. The water and sanitation programme has helped provide an avenue for policy dialogue with all levels of government. In Nepal, for example, this role was most crucial during the year as a "neutral bridge" between civil society and government. As of late 2007, the programme had directly benefited an estimated 400,000 people.

The *Water for African Cities Programme* was running programmes in operational in 18 cities in 15 countries thanks to the generous collaboration with and support of the **African Development Bank**. The programmes focus on demonstration projects complemented by capacity building and community mobilization to promote pro-poor, gender sensitive water and sanitation investments.

The agency's Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Initiative seeks to provide access to safe drinking water for an estimated 133,000 people, and bring improved sanitation to a further 15,000 persons. A solid waste management system appropriate for small urban centres has been designed and procurement arrangements have been completed. Implementation of the Fast-track Capacity Building Programme for water utilities has started in five towns around the lake. As part of the programme, UN-HABITAT has started Urban Inequities Surveys in 17 secondary urban centres in Kenya as part of the Lake Victoria programme. The surveys are designed to monitor progress on the Millennium Development Goals.

## BETTER ENERGY, BETTER TRANSPORT

UN-HABITAT's Energy and Transport programme has been actively engaged during the year with a wide range of partners promoting sustainable transportation and climate change mitigation in urban areas. The agency also sought to improve access to energy for the urban poor in developing countries.

These issues were brought to the fore at two big events in 2007: World Water Week in Stockholm, and the 15th Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development in New York. A key ingredient of the UN-HABITAT engagement on both occasions was the focus on actions, especially at the local level, required to speed up the attainment of Millennium Development Goals.

In 2007, the agency worked hard to promote high-volume, high-capacity public transport infrastructure investment as a hedge against the overuse of the private automobile to meet future transport demands in developing countries, particularly within the East Africa region. A program of work with UNEP's Global Environment Facility was developed to implement bus-rapid transport in three cities, namely Nairobi, Kenya; Kampala, Uganda and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The use of non-motorized transport as a tool for poverty alleviation were explored within the Kibera Integrated Slum Upgrading Programme through fashioning bicycle-trailer attachments for improved recyclables collection and integrated solid-waste management schemes to benefit women's groups.

On energy for the urban poor, renewable energy applications to supplement grid access were examined to reduce operating costs of water and sanitation service providers in the Lake Victoria Basin. In addition, slum electrification schemes were explored with the Kenya Power and Lighting Company to provide much-needed electricity access for the poor in slum communities throughout urban areas in Kenya.

They work closely with the active involvement of water operators, local authorities and local NGOs. The agency's *Human Values-based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education Implementation* school courses have brought into classrooms around the region giving more than 50,000

children new insights into water conservation

The *Latin American and Caribbean Programme* was launched during the reporting year, with considerable progress already made in starting a new collaboration with the **Inter-American Development Bank**.

The programme started operations in Mexico and has received political support and financial contributions from the central government for its first pilot project in the country. For water and sanitation work in Mexico, UN-HABITAT, in coordination with other UN agencies, also made a successful bid for the Government of Spain's UN Millennium Development Goal Fund.

For the past thirty years at UN-HABITAT has focused our efforts on how to provide land, infrastructure, basic services, and affordable building materials. While these efforts were not in vain, the agency had neglected the critical issue of access to finance.



# 05

## FINANCING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

At the time of the Governing Council deliberations, a special panel with representatives of the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, the Baraka Africa Equity Fund, UNEP, and UN-HABITAT met to discuss ways of providing more and more affordable housing to the growing numbers of people desperately in need of it.

They agreed that no single government has the capacity to provide free housing for all its citizens. UN-HABITAT pointed out that there was a market failure when it comes to financing housing for the urban poor – the reason why it had been trying to act as a broker between financiers and poor urban communities to allow them access to funds for mortgages. The aim was to show the private sector that poor people's housing was bankable.

According to UN-HABITAT figures, public and private investment, including official development assistance from major donors, came in 2007 to less than 5 percent of the estimated resources required to meet the two Millennium Development Goals of "improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020," and to "reduce by half the households lacking access to safe drinking water." This is why it was necessary to find innovative ways of financing slum upgrading.

**"The World's income distribution gives a very telling story. Ninety-four percent of the world income goes to 40 percent of the population while 60 percent of people live on only 6 percent of world income. Half of the world population lives on two dollars a day. Over one billion people live on less than a dollar a day. This is no formula for peace."**

*– Muhammad Yunus, the Nobel peace laureate on building the Grameen Bank to create economic and social development from below.*

The panelists agreed to examine ideas that combined the best of urban planning, housing policies, and property regulation so that the poor could be helped to finance their own homes.

In 2007, under UN-HABITAT's Slum Upgrading Facility pilot projects, private sector banks already agreed to give long term financing for low income women's housing cooperatives in Tanzania and Kenya. The Government of China is giving technical assistance to establish local construction firms in the city of Yangzhou to help build mid-rise residential blocks at low cost to enable the poor to remain close on prime land close to the central business district. UN-HABITAT also signed an agreement with the US private sector actors, the Global Housing Foundation of California and Merrill Lynch in New York to kick-start affordable low income housing in Latin American at large scale.

Thus the 2007 Governing Council resolution on Experimental

reimbursable seed capital operations (ERSO) to help finance pro-poor housing and urban development.

Indeed, for the past thirty years at UN-HABITAT we have focused our efforts on how to provide land, infrastructure, basic services, and affordable building materials. While these efforts were not in vain, the agency had neglected the critical issue of access to finance.

## REHABILITATION OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IN ECUADOR AND COLOMBIA (BEFORE AND AFTER)



In El Barranco, the Municipality of Cuenca and El Barranco Municipal Foundation built four bridges for pedestrians along the Tomebamba River with new, wide stairs, rest areas and lighting.



Juan Bobo slum in Medellín, Colombia: Before the local government and residents implemented the project “Viviendas con Corazón” (Shelter with a Heart), 80% of the homes were built using non resistant material in high risk areas, while 94% had neither secure tenure nor access to clean water and sanitation.



Still in Juan Bobo, interventions to provide water and sanitation and waste collection reduced the number of diseases, such as cholera and dysentery. Better pavements, public squares, stairs, small bridges, viewpoints and green areas improved city life.

Photos © Juan Miguel Pulgarín/Empresa de Desarrollo Urbano, Municipalidad de Medellín



In today's fast developing and urbanising world, cities are integral contributors to economic growth. But **Kumari Selja**, India's Minister of State for Housing and Urban poverty Alleviation, says we are also witnessing the negative consequences of this urbanisation such as slum growth, housing and civic infrastructure shortfalls. This is an excerpt of an article she wrote last year for *Habitat Debate*.

The Asia-Pacific region is experiencing the triple dynamics of economic growth, rapid urbanisation and poverty. It accounts for 34 percent of the global urban population and is also home to over 40 percent of the slum populations.

Some major challenges of urbanization and economic growth in this region are the growing urban-urban divide, deteriorating inner cities, unplanned and haphazard settlements, insufficient urban infrastructure and basic services. The list also includes land and housing shortages, environmental degradation, mounting poverty, unemployment and social exclusion.

These problems have to be confronted by effective planning, appropriate strategies, action plans and a paradigm of good governance. This will include strategic vision, consensus orientation, the rule of law, participation, equity, efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability.

India with its initiatives and economic reforms has been able to achieve a growth rate of 8 percent per annum in the last few years and is now aiming a growth rate of 9 percent in the next five years.

India has 286 million people living in over 5,000 cities and towns. Over 40 percent of them live in 60 metropolitan urban agglomerations. There are 61.7 million urban people living in slums and squatter settlements today. It is projected that the urban population of the country will grow to 468 million by 2020. This would have serious impact on housing, civic infrastructure, basic amenities and employment.

The central Government will give attention to planning for sustainable cities and devising macro-economic policies so that resources can flow to the housing and civic infrastructure sectors. Government will also provide a more supportive environment to Street Vendors through a comprehensive policy and a model Act.

However, there are three areas where critical intervention is required for promoting sustainable human settlements and sustainable cities in the Asia-Pacific region:

First, the traditional system of Master Planning of cities based on the Western model of segregation of residential uses from commercial and institutional uses has led to social exclusion and unequal growth. There has been little planning in this system for the informal sector including vendors, hawkers, construction workers and other vulnerable groups in cities. The Master Plans must be made inclusive with provision of adequate space for housing the poor and informal sector activities.

Second, urban growth, mounting poverty, population concentration, and unplanned spatial activities have exacerbated the complexities of urban administration. There is lack of institutional and managerial capacities in implementing poverty alleviation and slum upgrading in urban civic bodies. City Governments should be enabled to have the capacities and skills to administer service outsourcing, public-private partnerships for infrastructure development, effective services delivery and poverty alleviation programmes.

Lastly, we must accept inclusion of the poor as the core in all urban policies and programmes. My Ministry has been emphasizing the need for *inclusive zoning, inclusive planning and inclusive cities and municipalities*. I would urge this region to make *inclusion* the dominant paradigm in all our programmes.

The new Asia-Pacific conference is unique because it provides a platform for advancing the Habitat Agenda. It enables Asia-Pacific countries to speak with one voice during regional and international meetings like World Urban Forum, the UN-HABITAT Governing Council and meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development.





# 06

## OUR RESOURCES AND EXPENDITURE

UN-HABITAT's main sources of funding are:

- Regular Budget allocations approved by the United Nations General Assembly came from core funding by Member States.
- General Purpose contributions towards the

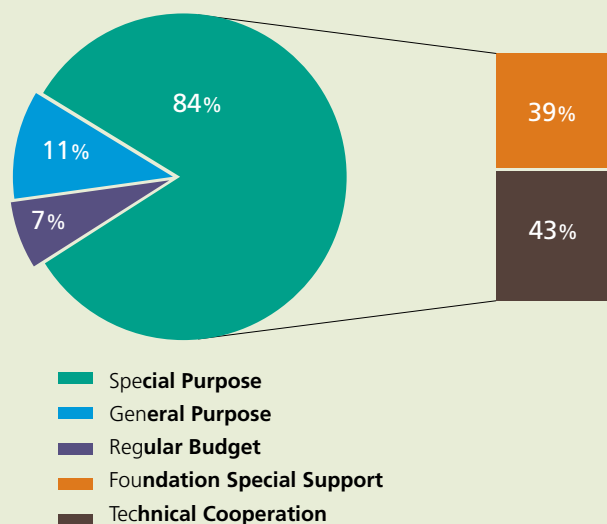
United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (Foundation). These non-earmarked voluntary contributions from Governments were allocated according to priorities agreed by the UN-HABITAT Governing Council.

- Special Purpose contributions earmarked voluntary contributions from Governments and other donors for the implementation of specific activities included in the approved work programme

### HOW THE MONEY IS USED

The contributions are used for specific projects, or the money goes towards the Foundation for normative work. In 2007, UN-HABITAT received General Purpose contributions amounting to USD 17.6 million and special purpose funding of USD 135.7 million. Of the Special Purpose funds received, USD 64.1 million was for Foundation activities and USD 71.6 million for Technical Cooperation activities.

Distribution of funds received by UN-HABITAT during the year 2007



*\*Note: The core funding is comprised of General Purpose funds and UN Regular Budget*

Part of the agency's earmarked funding goes to the following trust funds.

#### I. THE WATER AND SANITATION TRUST FUND

In its drive to help attain the water target of the Millennium Development Goals, UN-HABITAT set up a *Water and Sanitation Trust Fund* in 2002 to help municipalities reach out to the poorest and offering contributors an opportunity to target a high priority sector with maximum impact with a clear set of objectives.

The fund has signed agreements of USD 12,455,555.62 (Canada), USD 18,019,875.90 (Norway), USD 11,760,500 (Netherlands), USD 5,573,584.89 (Sweden), USD 3,000 (Poland), USD 50,745.90 (Coca Cola India Pvt), USD 11,518,387 (Spain), and USD 20,720,000 for the Lake Victoria Initiative.

#### II. SPECIAL HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

A trust fund for *The Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People* was established to address the housing and related needs of people living in the occupied Palestinian territories. The objectives of the Programme are to build institutional

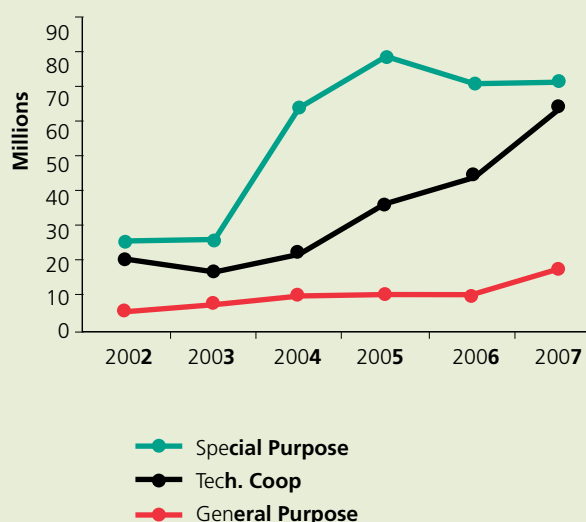
capacity and coordination mechanisms in the field of human settlements, promote affordable mechanisms for housing finance, work with research institutions to collect socio-economic data through the creation of urban observatories, support the development of a Palestinian human settlements policy (with related strategies for housing and urban development), establish a planning framework, and implement housing and settlements upgrading. The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund established at a level

of USD 5 million, has thus far received USD 500,000 (USA), USD 49,980 (China), USD 296,582 (Sweden), USD 100,000 (Oman), USD 199,985 (Al-Marktoun), USD 67,380 (Sudan), USD 50,000 (Russia), USD 1,889,997 (Saudi Committee for the Palestinian People Relief), USD 500,000 (Bahrain) and USD 106,200 (Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development). A total amount of USD 3,760,069.00 was received during the period of 2003-2007.

#### DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The increasing level of contributions to UN-HABITAT showed strong support for its work and achievements.

Trends in donor contributions (2002 - 2007)





UN-HABITAT relies on a small group of the same donors for the majority of its funding. In 2007, the agency embarked on a new resource mobilization strategy to better coordinate its fund-raising efforts, widen its donor base and achieve more sustainable funding for its work.

#### TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS – TOP TEN DONORS FROM 2005-2007

<b>2005</b> <b>US\$134,656,139</b>	
<b>Country</b>	<b>%</b>
1 Italy	14
2 Netherlands	10
3 Norway	7
4 UN Regular Budget	7
5 Japan	4
6 Sweden	3
7 European Union	3
8 United Kingdom	3
9 Germany	1
10 Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1
Others	48

<b>2006</b> <b>US\$ 135,476,636</b>	
<b>Country</b>	<b>%</b>
1 Sweden	12
2 Netherlands	10
3 Canada	8
4 Norway	8
5 European Union	7
6 UN Regular Budget	7
7 United Kingdom	3
8 Afghanistan	2
9 Italy	1
10 Switzerland	1
Others	40

<b>2007</b> <b>US\$ 164,477,770</b>	
<b>Country</b>	<b>%</b>
1 Spain	11
2 Norway	10
3 Sweden	10
4 Netherlands	8
5 UN Regular Budget	7
6 Canada	5
7 Italy	4
8 United Kingdom	2
9 European Union	2
10 Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	2
Others	39

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE TRUST FUNDS / FACILITY IN 2007 (US\$)

INCOME	AMOUNT
<b>Water and Sanitation Trust Fund</b>	
Canada	3,710,076
Coca Cola India	51,723
Netherlands	10,068,940
Norway	5,792,454
Spain	11,518,387
Sweden	2,619,217
<b>Total Water and Sanitation Trust Fund</b>	<b>33,760,796</b>
<b>Programme for the Palestinian People</b>	
Arab Authority for Agri. Invest. and Development (AAAID)	106,165
Bahrain	500,000
Saudi Arabia	1,889,977
<b>Total Prog. for the Palestinian People</b>	<b>2,496,142</b>
<b>Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations (ERSO)</b>	
Spain	2,879,597
<b>Total ERSO</b>	<b>2,879,597</b>
<b>Slum Upgrading Facility</b>	
Cities Alliance	984,952
Norway	2,543,229
Sweden	1,213,975
<b>Total Prog. for Slum Upgrading Facility</b>	<b>4,742,156</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Water and Sanitation Trust Fund	20,106,037
Programme for the Palestinian People	344,211
Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations (ERSO)	
Slum Upgrading Facility	2,597,548



A young boy pumps water  
from a tube well in Terai  
region of Nepal.  
Photo © UN-HABITAT





## 07

## THE MILESTONES

It was fitting therefore that the year started with a visit to the United Nations Africa headquarters by the new UN Secretary-General, **Mr. Ban Ki-moon**. Mrs. Tibaijuka escorted him in the crowded Kibera slum. He got an eye-opening first taste of extreme urban poverty in Africa. "I feel very much humbled by what I am seeing now," he said. "We must work together and generate the political will to have a smooth implementation of the **Millennium Development Goals** and I will work very closely, and harder than before." Just nine months later, he handed over USD100, 000 through the Pony Chung Scholarship Foundation to help a UN-HABITAT project for the poor in Kibera.

The year 2007 also made history as the year in which the global number of slum dwellers topped the 1 billion mark. And in February Mrs. Tibaijuka lost no time in visiting Kigali, capital of Rwanda, to sign an agreement extending the agency's **Water for African Cities Programme** to provide water and sanitation services for people living in Rwanda's poorest neighbourhoods, many of them every bit as deprived as Kibera. She held talks with a number of senior officials including **Rwanda's President Paul Kagame** at which they pledged to monitor progress on Millennium Development Goal



**UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, accompanied by Mrs. Tibaijuka visited the crowded Kibera slum in Nairobi, Kenya early in the year and witnessed extreme urban poverty. Photo © UN-HABITAT/Nathan Kihara**

7, Target 10 for improved water and sanitation. In 2007 the Water for African Cities Programme covered 17 cities across 13 countries in Africa – Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

In Europe later that month, UN-HABITAT's work in the transition economies of Central, Eastern and Southern European States, took a boost at the first meeting of the Advisory Council of the UN-HABITAT Warsaw Office. **Mr. Andrzej Aumiller, Minister of Construction of Poland** joined Mrs. Tibaijuka in welcoming more than 70 delegates from 18

countries in the region.

**Bahrain's Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman al Khalifa** in March was awarded the UN 2006 Special Citation of the UN-HABITAT Scroll of Honour for his "impressive efforts in lifting the living standards of all Bahrainis through an active focus on poverty alleviation and modernization while preserving the cultural heritage" of his country.

Days later, the Government of **Spain** committed new funding of USD592, 000 for UN-HABITAT's Rapid Urban Sector Profiling for Sustainability programme in the Democratic Republic of **Congo, Mozambique** and **Senegal**.

But it was the the 21st session of UN-HABITAT Governing Council which opened on Monday, 16 April 2007 – in the year of homo urbanus – that was the year's crowning event.

A total of 911 delegates from 92 countries were joined by 231 representatives of NGOs, local governments, the UN system, international financial institutions, professional associations and the private sector at the week of deliberations.

There were many highlights. But landmark decisions of the Council overshadowed them all: These were the resolutions on the Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan, and the one entitled, Strengthening the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation: experimental financial mechanisms for pro-poor housing

and infrastructure. Both initiatives are instrumental to the future of UN-HABITAT, and the 2007 Governing Council could well prove to be a watershed.

UN-HABITAT's Deputy Executive Director, **Ambassador Inga Björk-Klevby** visited Geneva to brief the UN Secretary-General and members of the United Nations Executive Board on the Governing Council. She also explained how the cause of human settlements had entered centre stage on the international agenda with half of humanity living in towns and cities.

On 3 May, Mr. **Ban Ki-moon** hailed the opening of a new UN-HABITAT centre in the South Korean city of Hongcheon, in Gangwon Province. An inauguration ceremony was conducted by the **Provincial Governor, Mr. Kim Jinsun**.

And barely had the ink dried on the Governing Council resolutions, than Mrs. Tibaijuka found herself in New York to address the Fifteenth Session of the **Commission for Sustainable Development**. Taking up the links between human settlements with the Commission themes of energy for sustainable development; industrial development; air pollution; and climate change, she explained how affordable, modern energy services were a prerequisite for achieving the **Millennium Development Goals**.

In **Antananarivo**, capital of Madagascar, UN-HABITAT joined a group of UN agencies for a seminar on housing reform and shelter needs as part of the new 'One UN' concept whereby all agencies working in a country pool their expertise as best they can for



UN-HABITAT reconstruction experts in a mobile technical unit work to enhance shelter recovery in southern Lebanon. Photo © UN-HABITAT/ Cassandra Mathie



the benefit of all.

In June, UN-HABITAT announced the **European Union** and the **Netherlands** would provide funding for its post-conflict reconstruction programme in Lebanese areas damaged during the 2006 Israeli bombing raids.

**ECHO**, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office, provided about USD 1 million (EUR 746,068) to help rebuild the south Beirut suburb of Hayy el Sullum. The seven-month project helped renovate buildings and repair water and sanitation systems for some 4,200 people.

In another area of post-conflict reconstruction, UN-HABITAT presented a special award to the Government of **Afghanistan** for outstanding achievements in furthering the cause of human settlements in its post-conflict reconstruction programme. The Technical Cooperation Award cited "outstanding commitment and long-term cooperation with UN-HABITAT" as well as "recognition for people-centred development policies" adopted by the Government. The award was received by the **Minister of Urban Development, Mr. Mohammad Yusuf Pashtun**.

Mrs. Tibaijuka paid a working visit to **Spain** where she held talks with the country's **Vice-President, Mrs. Maria Teresa Fernández de la Vega**, and the **Minister of Industry, Tourism and Commerce, Mr. Joan Clos**. As Mayor of Barcelona before joining the government, Mr. Clos presided at the second session of the World Urban Forum in Barcelona in 2004.

She went on to The Netherlands to join **Professor Martien Molenaar, Rector of the International**

### **Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation**

to sign an agreement to cooperate in the field of training and the use of geo-information science and earth observation tools. The signing ceremony took place in The Hague on 29 June 2007.

"We are grateful to ITC for working with us to ensure that planners everywhere will be able to take advantage of the latest GIS technologies," she said. "This collaboration will help us avoid a future of chaotic cities; more importantly it will help us deliver

affordable housing and basic services to the urban poor."

July marked the **World Water Week** convention in **Stockholm, Sweden**, where a new **Global Water Operators Partnership Alliance** was established to get water and sanitation access for the poorest of the poor. The Alliance was launched by **H.R.H. The Prince of Orange** at a ceremonial dinner hosted by Mrs. Tibaijuka. The guests included representatives of the donor community, recipient countries, and UN-HABITAT partner organisations including UN-Water,

### **HOW THE MONEY IS USED**

Mrs. Tibaijuka presented the awards during the Global Celebrations of World Habitat Day, on 1 October 2007, in The Hague, the Netherlands, and on 5 October 2007 in Monterrey, Mexico. The 2007 honorees were:

- The Nanning Municipal People's Government for developing China's first Integrated City Emergency Response System.
- The Cuban historian, Dr. Eusebio Leal Spengler, for his dedication to the restoration and conservation of the Historical Centre of Havana.
- The Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies associated with the Erasmus University of Rotterdam in the Netherlands as a global centre of excellence and knowledge for its high quality teaching programmes in housing, urban management and urban environmental management and planning.
- From Pakistan, Lieutenant-General Nadeem Ahmed, Deputy Chairman, Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA), for great leadership and compassion in helping millions rebuild their homes and lives after the 2005 earthquake.
- The Palestinian Housing Council for exceptional endeavours in helping provide homes, apartments, employment prospects and bringing new hope to countless Palestinian families.
- The Stavropol City Administration in Russia for reducing crime and ethnic tensions while improving employment, health and economic prospects for all.
- The Mwanza Rural Housing Programme (MRHP) for helping bring shelter, employment and healthier living and environmental conditions to hundreds of thousands of Tanzanian households.

the African Ministerial Conference on Water, the Water and Sanitation Collaborative Council, and the organizers, the Swedish International Water Institute.

A month later, the **Republic of Cyprus** joined its European partners by agreeing through its agency, CYPRUSAID to provide more than USD 600,000 for UN-HABITAT's post conflict reconstruction programme in Lebanon.

In September, UN-HABITAT announced plans to open a new office in Beijing, China as it expands the agency's **Water for Asian Cities Programme**. The office, based at the National Training Centre for Mayors, will provide water and sanitation training for mayors from China, other parts of Asia and Africa. The Water for Asian Cities programme is a collaborative initiative with the **Asian Development Bank** and is currently operational in five countries - **India, Laos, Nepal, China** and **Vietnam**. Since 2004, the water programme has been working in **Nanjing**, and this year it was extended to secondary towns in **Yunnan Province**.

Some 25 newly elected mayors from the **Palestinian** West Bank Governorates in September joined a training workshop on leadership and management skills. The one week workshop 4-10 September 2007 was held in **Ramallah**, occupied Palestinian territories. It was organized by UN-HABITAT in cooperation with the **Association of Palestinian Local Authorities** and the Ministry of Local Government. 17/09/2007

In Kenya, **UN-HABITAT Messenger of Truth Joseph Ogidi Oyoo** was feted at an



**In September, UN-HABITAT announced plans to open a new office in Beijing, China as it expands the Water for Asian Cities Programme. Photo © UN-HABITAT/Nepal**

awards ceremony showcasing the best of East African music. Oyoo, who goes by the stage name of **Gidi Gidi**, won the **Social Responsibility Award** for his song condemning rape and sexual abuse, *Wanaume Ibilisi (Some men are satanic)*.

In Mexico City, later in September, the renowned Mexican urban thinker and Lecturer, **Professor Martha Schteingart** was named winner of the **2007 UN-HABITAT Lecture Award**.

At the end of the month, Mrs. Tibaijuka visited New York for the largest gathering of world leaders on climate change ever convened.

Then, for the other big highlight of the year, she returned to **The Netherlands** for World Habitat Day. She used the occasion to present the **Habitat Scroll of Honour** awards, the most prestigious honour given by the United Nations in recognition of work carried out in the field of human settlements development.

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